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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الراي

Majali meets Sudanese minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday received Sudanese Minister of Trade and Industry Tajir Mustafa who is currently visiting Jordan, and was briefed by him on the outcome of the meetings of the Jordanian-Sudanese Joint Committee on economic and trade relations between the two countries. Mr. Majali underlined the importance of such meetings between Arab states, saying they open new scopes of cooperation and serve the interests of the Arab peoples. The Sudanese minister said the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and cooperation in fields of training, medicine, tourism and economy. The Sudanese minister had another meeting with Minister of Transport Salman Al Tarawneh. Mr. Tarawneh underlined the importance of activating sea and air transport between Jordan and Sudan. Mr. Mustafa also met with Supply Minister Radhi Ibrahim and the two discussed measures taken by both countries to facilitate the exchange of commodities. The two ministers also discussed the possibility of Jordan's producing wheat in Sudan to be exported to the Kingdom. Another meeting was held between the Sudanese minister and Tourism Minister Yanal Hikmat who expressed Jordan's readiness to offer training to Sudanese cadres in tourism-related fields.

'U.S. not trying to start another war'

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — The United States is not trying to provoke a new war in Iraq, U.S. Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy Frank Wisner said here Monday after conflicting claims over an incident in Iraq Saturday. "If our planes are threatened, they are under order to face the threat and protect themselves and that is what has happened," Mr. Wisner told reporters during a brief stopover here enroute to Singapore to attend a meeting with Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) foreign ministers. News reports quoted the Pentagon as saying that a U.S. Air Force fighter patrolling Iraq's southern "no-fly" zone swapped fire late Saturday with an Iraqi missile site. The U.S. plane was not hit. A Pentagon spokesman in Washington said the U.S. F-4G fighter opened fire after an Iraqi radar locked onto it. But the Iraqi Information Ministry denied Washington's account of the attack and accused the United States of seeking to spark a new crisis. It also insisted that no Iraqi missile site was hit. On June 26, the United States bombed an intelligence complex in Baghdad in retaliation for an alleged plot to kill former U.S. President George Bush during his April trip to Kuwait. Six civilians were killed. Three days later, a U.S. F-4G fighter jet fired a missile at an Iraqi anti-aircraft artillery site in southern Iraq after two aircraft were illuminated by Iraqi radar.

Israel hammers Lebanon

Dozens, including 2 Israeli soldiers, killed; thousands flee homes; Beirut seeks urgent U.N. action; Barak wants Hizbollah disarmed

Combined agency dispatches

ISRAEL HAMMERED Lebanon with warplanes, gunboats and artillery for a second day Monday as civilians on both sides of the border fled the worst Arab-Israeli fighting in 11 years. At least 38 people have been killed and 193 wounded, most of them in Lebanon, where more than 50,000 villagers escaped to the south from their homes during the night. Lebanese fighters killed two Israeli soldiers in attacks in southern Lebanon. Security sources said, bringing to nine the number of Israeli soldiers killed in Lebanon since July 8. Amal guerrillas claimed responsibility for killing one of the soldiers Monday. They both died at the military hospital in Tyre. The Israeli army said it was not responsible for the deaths. It said the deaths were the result of a "security zone" in the southern Lebanon. As tens of thousands of people fled their homes near Israel's "security zone" in South Lebanon, the Lebanese government demanded an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council, to halt the attacks. Israel offered to end "Operation Accountability," which it launched Sunday morning, if Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrillas stopped a rocket barrage against northern Israel which killed two civilians Sunday night and wounded many more. "We would like to see the council pronounce itself on what is happening and to stop these attacks," said a senior Israeli official.

Attacks, which are continuing for the second consecutive day on a large scale, "Lebanese Ambassador Khalil Makkawi told Reuters on his way to see council President Sir David Hannay of Britain. Mr. Hannay later confirmed the urgent Lebanese request and said council members were to hold private consultations later in the day. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in a statement issued through a spokesman, deplored both the Israeli attacks against Lebanon and rocket attacks against northern Israel. Dr. Ghali said the commander of the U.N. force in southern Lebanon had been instructed to urge both sides to exercise maximum restraint. Israeli army Chief of Staff Ehud Barak demanded that the Lebanese government to disarm Hizbollah guerrillas, warning that otherwise Israel "will do it." "If the Lebanese government is unable to impose its will on Hizbollah, the Israeli army will do it," General Barak told reporters in the Israeli coastal town of Nahariya, three kilometres from the border with Lebanon. "We hope that the government in Beirut, which pretends to govern Lebanon, will assume its responsibilities and make Hizbollah see reason," he added. Gen. Barak said the Israeli forces were pursuing attacks launched Sunday against Hizbollah, adding that Israel was keeping options open to guarantee the success of its operation. Security sources confirmed

Earlier, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's diplomatic adviser told a press conference: "We are trying to exert pressure on the Lebanese government to disarm Hizbollah. Our goal is to stop Hizbollah by acting through the Lebanese government," adviser Jacques Neria said. "We do not want a confrontation with Syria. We have responded to the latest attacks and said if there are more we will be free to act." Up to 150,000 Israelis stayed in reinforced rooms and bomb shelters because of rocket attacks on the northern Israel. Israel Radio said an Israeli woman was lightly wounded on Monday. Asked if he would launch a ground attack beyond the "security zone," Gen. Barak replied "I would not rule out any form of operations." Army radio said from northern Israel that a column of tanks and armoured personnel carriers was moving towards the "security zone." "For the first time tanks of armoured corps are making their way north." "This is the last warning and ultimatum," a South Lebanon Army (SLA) radio station affiliated with the Israeli army in southern Lebanon broadcast Monday evening. It told the 35,000 inhabitants of Nabatieh that their market town would be "shelled within a few moments." The shelling commenced shortly after two Israeli soldiers were reported killed by Amal. Security sources confirmed

Amal's claim of responsibility for the latest Israeli deaths. Israel launched its two-day raid Sunday in retaliation for the earlier troops casualties. Hizbollah struck back with more than 100 barrages of Soviet-designed Katyusha rockets on Israel's northern towns and the "security zone." Warplanes buzzed Sidon, breaking the sound barrier over the city and shattering windows in apartment blocks and cars. Security sources said the Israeli army also sent more troops and armour into its "security zone," raising to more than 2,000 the number of troops it has in the region, double the normal contingent. Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Bouez said: "If the Security Council does not meet and if its resolutions are not respected that will show it is incapable of fulfilling its obligations." He said that Israel was "deliberately" attacking Red Cross ambulances and relief teams assisting victims. "Israel is diverting everyone's attention from the main problem which remains Israel's occupation of South Lebanon," Mr. Bouez told reporters after summoning ambassadors of the five permanent Security Council members. But Information Minister Michel Samaha told Reuters Lebanon was not yet at the stage where it would consider withdrawing from the 21-month-old peace talks with Israel due to the attacks. "We are keen to go through

the peace process and have our internal unity and security re-established," he said. "We are asking the Americans to help us more to make breakthroughs in the process." Lebanon's Supreme Defence Council, which includes President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, top ministers and the army commander, held an emergency meeting Monday. Officials said Beirut was also in close contact with Syria, which has 35,000 troops in Lebanon. In Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said "after each (Israeli) operation there is a pause to see if calm returns" — clearly implying that the raids would halt if the rocketing of Israel stopped. Syria declared support for Lebanon and accused the Jewish state of provocation. Tens of thousands of Lebanese villagers fled their homes in South Lebanon in the largest exodus since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, police officials said. About 20 villages lying near the "security zone" were almost deserted on Monday while 20 to 75 per cent of the inhabitants of dozens of other villages sought refuge further north or in Beirut. Fewer than 20,000 people remained in the town of Nabatieh, normally home to 50,000, by Monday afternoon, police said. Israeli warplanes launched more than 100 air raids and troops fired thousands of shells at targets over a 30-hour period Sunday and Monday, a U.N.



A Lebanese family is crammed into a pick-up truck as they flee their village Monday to escape Israeli raids in South Lebanon (AFP photo)

peacekeeping officer said. The officer, with the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), said U.N. observers had counted more than 2,500 mortar shells landing only in the area under their jurisdiction, which comprises around half the territory pounded by the Israeli bombardment. Security sources said Israeli warplanes launched more air strikes on Lebanese targets after nightfall Monday, with fighter-bombers blasting a Hizbollah base in the east of the country. Witnesses said fires were raging in Jibsheet and other villages and smoke from exploding shells billowed from Iqlim Al Toufah mountain ridge. Israeli planes firing missiles pounced on the Palestinian refugee camp of Al Bidawi near the port of Tripoli, 70 kilometres north of Beirut, after dawn and wrecked a glass factory.

Ten Lebanese civilians and 27 Palestinians were killed and 27 wounded in the air raid and two attacks by gunboats which unleashed missiles into the camp from late on Sunday. A cameraman of Hizbollah's Al Manar television station covering the fighting was killed in the south, the sources said. Planes firing missiles made two raids on a Palestinian guerrilla base in the village of Na'meh, 15 kilometres south of Beirut. Others hit the Palestinian refugee camp of Mich Mich and villages. Voice of the South radio, run by the Israeli-backed SLA, said the Israeli navy was blockading the ports of Tyre and Sidon and civilian vessels should avoid them. The highway linking Beirut to southern Lebanon was jammed with cars piled high with bedding and belongings as thousands of civilians fled for safer areas out-

side the main battle zones. A naval training base for Ahmad Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command was levelled, killing 10 people and wounding 30 others. In the eastern town of Baalbek, Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah told a news conference. "What is happening is not going to stop us from continuing and escalating our confrontation to drive the Israeli enemy out of Lebanon by force of arms." The PFLP-GC also vowed it would not give up the struggle. "As long as Lebanese soil is occupied, and as long as the Israelis continue to occupy our land, we will never give up the fight against the Israeli forces," PFLP-GC spokesman Omar Shehadi told AFP from the organisation's headquarters in Damascus.

Austrian leader to visit Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Austrian President Thomas Klestil will arrive in Amman on an official visit to Jordan Sept. 4, 1993, an official announcement by the Royal Court said Monday. It said the visit comes at an invitation by Queen His Majesty Queen Hussein to the Austrian president.

Russian envoy arrives in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — A senior Russian diplomat arrived in Syria Monday to try to narrow differences that have stalled the Arab-Israeli peace process. The visit of Viktor Posavlyuk, head of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Middle East and North Africa Department, is in advance of a scheduled meeting next week by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Mr. Posavlyuk was greeted at Damascus airport by Muwafaq Nassar, the Syrian Foreign Minister's director for Europe. Neither spoke to reporters. Mr. Posavlyuk also is to visit Jordan, Lebanon and Tunisia, where he will meet with leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Arafat meets Kim

TOKYO (AFP) — North Korean President Kim Il-Sung met Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Pyongyang Monday on the eve of the 40th anniversary of the Korean War truce. The official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said the talks were held in a "sincere and friendly atmosphere." Mr. Arafat arrived in Pyongyang earlier Monday on his sixth visit to the communist state which has been persuaded by Israel in recent months to stop suspected missile sales to Iran and Syria.

6 Somalis killed by U.S. forces

ROME (R) — U.S. forces killed at least six Somalis, including a woman and a child, after coming under attack south of the Somali capital Mogadishu overnight, the Italian ANSA news agency reported Monday. ANSA said the incident occurred when Somali militia men in a battle truck fired at an American post. It said a Cobra helicopter returned fire, destroying the truck. (Italy wants reduced U.N. role, page 2).

Arabs say Israeli actions undermine peace process

Christopher sees peace talks as the only answer; France condemns Israel

Combined agency dispatches

ARABS MONDAY strongly condemned the most widespread Israeli air and artillery attacks on Lebanon for more than a decade, saying they were bound to damage the already faltering Middle East peace process. The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said the Israeli military offensive had dealt a death blow to the Middle East peace process. "The organisation condemns the savage Israeli army aggression against Lebanese and Palestinian civilians and against the Syrian army in Lebanon," said PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman. He said the PLO was putting "all its political and military means with its Lebanese and Syrian brothers to fight the aggression." By ordering the attacks in Lebanon, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin dealt a "death blow to the peace process in the Middle East," Mr. Abdul Rahman said. "The aggression, which was the result of the U.S. administration policy of support to Israel ... shows clearly the Israeli government in its true face as a war cabinet and not a peace cabinet," he said. Syria, which lost three of its soldiers in the Israeli strikes on Lebanon Sunday, said the Jewish state's action was putting the peace negotiations to a critical test. "The peace process is effectively under a critical test and whoever endangers it is in fact endangering the stability and security of the region. All the efforts deployed to salvage these talks have also been put at very critical crossroads," the official newspaper Al Baath said in an editorial. A Syrian Foreign Ministry spokesman said the attacks "against Lebanese civilians and their peaceful villages cannot be considered as an aggression on Lebanon, Syria and the Arabs alone, but an aggression on the entire world community, notably the (U.N.) Security Council."

Israel had "put its will over that of the international community and its authority over that of the Security Council and international law," the spokesman said. It told the world community the peace talks could only be saved by putting pressure on Israel to contain its "lust for destruction, killing and fanning the peace process." The state-run Tishreen newspaper said: "It is no secret that Israel is trying through its escalation in South Lebanon to cover up its intransigent and aggressive policy towards the peace process and escape the obligations of peace to withdraw from the occupied territories." The 21-nation Arab League "strongly condemned" the raids and demanded implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from South Lebanon. Egypt said Israel should halt its military operation in Lebanon immediately and warned that the peace talks could be at risk. "These (Israeli) practices must come to an immediate halt because they may have a negative result on the peace talks in the Middle East," Foreign Minister Amr Musa told Reuters. Iran condemned the Israeli attacks and urged the international community to stop the two-day-old offensive. "Iran strongly condemns the savage and inhuman attacks against southern Lebanon and calls on the international community to take serious steps to stop them," the foreign ministry said. "Although this is not the first time such criminal acts are committed by the Zionist regime against the Muslims in southern Lebanon, they are under the present circumstances indicative of the real intention" of Israel, it said. In Singapore, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said that progress in the peace talks was the only antidote to battles raging in Lebanon. "What I would emphasize is we must not let the opponents of the peace process undermine it," he

told reporters. "The only antidote, the only real answer to this kind of violence, is to make progress in the peace process and bring to that region the kind of tranquillity it has been missing." Mr. Christopher, who travels to the Middle East next week to try to get the stalled 20-month-old peace talks moving, said he had not been in contact with Israeli or Syrian leaders but was getting regular briefings from his team in Washington. He singled out Hizbollah (Party of God) as being a consistent opponent of the peace process. France condemned Israel for its assaults and demanded an immediate halt to the campaign. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said France "urges Israel to stop as soon as possible this initiative which is an attack against the sovereignty of Lebanon and threatens to endanger the Middle East peace process." France "believes a military operation of this scale cannot be justified and regrets the many innocent civilian victims since yesterday," he said. Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres had been expected in Paris Monday but at the last minute cancelled his visit because of the Lebanese fighting (see page 2). In his statement, the French spokesman urged countries with influence in the region, an apparent reference to the United States and Syria, to do everything in their power to restore peace. Ireland said it was gravely concerned about the Israeli attacks on Lebanon after reports that two Irish soldiers attached to U.N. peacekeeping forces had been hurt. Irish radio said two Irish soldiers were slightly injured by flying shrapnel and the troops took shelter in underground bunkers as Israel blasted targets in Lebanon for a second straight day. Foreign Minister Dick Spring said in a statement the shelling was "unacceptable" and said Ireland was protesting to the Israeli government.

Dayan and Darawseh urge PLO to refocus peace talks

TUNIS (AP) — Visiting Israeli parliament members said Monday they urged the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to refocus the Middle East peace process on issues that can be resolved. The comments by Yael Dayan and Abdul Wahab Darawseh came as they wound up three days of talks with senior PLO officials. Ms. Dayan and Mr. Darawseh had expected to meet with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat. But he was out of the country on an Asian tour. Ms. Dayan, a member of Israel's ruling Labour Party, is daughter of the late Moshe Dayan. Mr. Darawseh is with the leftist Arab Democratic Party. Ms. Dayan said she urged the Palestinians to accept Israel's offer for limited self-government in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and to put off the question of Jerusalem to a later date. Ms. Dayan told reporters: "My opinion, which I discussed with the PLO officials, is that they should not stick to Semantics or insist on issues which cannot be resolved." Mr. Darawseh said he proposed upgrading the peace negotiations by bringing in ministers or heads of state. Mr. Darawseh quoted PLO officials as saying they had no objections to Palestinians taking over some governing functions in the occupied territories "if that will be part of an overall peace plan." Among PLO leaders they met with were Mahmoud Abbas, a member of the PLO's Executive Committee, Yasser Abed Rabbo, a PLO executive and political adviser to Mr. Arafat, and Basam Abu Sharif. Ms. Dayan was not included in a Sunday meeting between Mr. Darawseh and Farouk Kadoumi, head of the PLO's Political Department. Both Ms. Dayan and Mr. Darawseh said they hoped to return to Tunis in late August or early September with a larger delegation of Israeli parliament members.

Regent meets Turkish minister, reports identical nature of views

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday received at the Royal Court visiting Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmat Cetin and reviewed with him Jordanian-Turkish relations and means of enhancing cooperation in various fields. Prince Hassan and Mr. Cetin also discussed the Middle East peace process, stressing the need to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region that would guarantee the return of Arab rights, including the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on its national soil, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The Crown Prince and the Turkish minister also discussed the possible means to achieve stability in the region, and international developments with special

emphasis on the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the conditions of the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories. "We share concern for the future of the Middle East region, a concern that we share with Turkey in the context of developments in the Balkans, in the context of Central Asia and indeed closer to home in the context of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the peace process," Prince Hassan said in an interview with Turkish Television following the meeting. "But may I say the primary concern that we share is for the stability of this region in the face of ethnic and sectarian conflicts — a concern that is based on our commitment to democratic principles and to pluralism," he said. "I would like to thank Foreign

Minister Cetin for his insights into Turkish policy, particularly in the context of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC), where we have an identity of views on the need to arrest the continuing violence in Bosnia and indeed the identity of views in terms of the need for the activation of the peace process particularly against the background of the tragic outbreak of violence in the Lebanon which as you know is going on to the moment that we are talking now," the Crown Prince said. He added: "Violence can breed only violence and this... cannot be acceptable particularly in the context of the renewed attempts by the U.S. administration to bring a meaning and momentum to the peace talks." Mr. Cetin arrived here Sunday. He leaves for Israel Tuesday.

U.N. starts work on setting up cameras at Iraqi missile sites

Combined agency dispatches

BAHGDAD — A U.N. arms team reported Monday it was getting "good cooperation" from Iraqi officials as it started work on setting up surveillance cameras at two missile test sites. U.S. team leader Bill Eckert, charged with installing the cameras, said Monday the Iraqis were doing a "very good job" helping with the installation, and were giving his team "good cooperation." The commercial-type security cameras are to be installed but not yet switched on under the terms of an agreement reached between Iraq and the U.N. last week which defused a mounting crisis over long-term surveillance of Iraq's weapons programme. Mr. Eckert and two other Americans arrived here Sunday and started preparations to install six cameras at the Yawm Al Azim and Rafah missile sites 60 kilometres south of Baghdad Monday. The cameras will remain switched off pending further discussions between the two sides in New York in late August or early September. Mr. Eckert said on arrival here Sunday that the installation of the

cameras was "the first concrete step" towards long-term monitoring Iraq's post-war military potential. An Italian-led team of nuclear weapons experts is also currently in Iraq on a routine mission over-seeing the dismantlement of Iraq's nuclear weapons programme, agreed to under the terms of the Gulf war ceasefire in 1991. Mr. Eckert said his team had to clear a number of technical points. Mr. Eckert said he did not think his mission would be hampered by a U.S. air strike in southern Iraq Sunday. Iraq has rejected the U.S. account of what happened, saying it did not activate anti-aircraft radar, as Washington claimed, and did not fire a missile in response to the U.S. strike. U.S. planes patrol southern Iraq to protect Iranian-backed dissidents from Baghdad's air power. Iraq's official statement on the incident was mild, a sign that Baghdad is trying at the moment to avoid tension. Mr. Eckert and his team came to install the surveillance cameras that are not sophisticated spy equipment, but the same devices guarding stores and banks against theft. However, infrared monitors

have been added to detect heat, so that the cameras would switch on if Iraq should test a missile at the Yawm Al Azim and Al Rafah sites south of Baghdad. Iraq says it intends to test missiles with ranges of no more than 144 kilometres but the United Nations wants monitoring cameras to make sure longer-range or more powerful missiles cannot be tested at the site. One video and one still camera will be mounted on a pole at each site. The still camera will feed a picture every eight minutes to the U.N. office at the Sheraton Hotel in Baghdad. If U.N. experts want a detailed look at something in the still picture, they can then activate the video camera. The cameras also are protected against tampering. A motion sensor would set off an alarm at the Baghdad U.N. office. Now the only thing to work out is when, or if the cameras will be turned on. They won't be activated until further technical discussions in New York over the next two months. Among those details: How long it will take the Iraqis to dig a trench for cables and provide telephone extensions from the missile test sites to the Sheraton, 75 kilometres away.



TOWARDS NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE: Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali Monday urged the Ministry of Health to speed up the implementation of a national comprehensive health insurance system. Speaking during an inspection visit to the ministry, Dr. Majali himself a physician, said such a system should enjoy independent management and seek to provide health benefits for all Jordanian citizens. The premier also cautioned health officials to take necessary procedures to end drug wastage at hospitals and government-run health centres. He noted that ministry warehouses should have sufficient stocks of drugs to last at least four months. Addressing a meeting attended by Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas and senior ministry officials, Dr. Majali stressed the need for close cooperation with other concerned government departments. Dr. Malhas said the ministry recently formed a special committee to prevent any wastage of drugs. He also noted that the Health Ministry and the Civil Defence Department (CDD) have reached an agreement on organising a medical ambulance service to prevent duplicating services and save public funds (Petra photo)

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent congratulates Azerbaijan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday sent a cable to Azeri President Gaidar Aliyev congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on Azerbaijan's independence day. Prince Hassan wished Mr. Aliyev continued good health and happiness and the Azeri people further progress and prosperity.

Agriculture minister receives Iraqi counterpart

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Marwan Kamal Monday received in his office Iraqi Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Abdul Wahab Al Sabbagh who arrived in Amman Sunday on his way to Khartoum. Dr. Kamal and Dr. Sabbagh discussed Jordanian-Iraqi cooperation. The meeting was attended by Secretary General of the Ministry of Agriculture Ghaleb Abu Urabi and Iraqi Ambassador to Jordan Nouri Ismail Al Weis.

Mafrag to open school for deaf

MAFRAQ (Petra) — The Mafrag Social Development Department Monday decided to open a school for the mentally retarded and the deaf in the governorate, according to Director of the Department Ahmad Shudeifat. Mr. Shudeifat said the school will start operation at the beginning of the next scholastic year.

Arab agriculture official to arrive for talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Arab Agricultural Development Organisation Yahya Bakour will arrive in Amman Tuesday on a three-day visit to Jordan as part of a tour of several Arab countries. Dr. Bakour will hold talks with Jordanian officials on agricultural development projects and boosting existing cooperation between Jordan and the organisation.

Official urges industries to focus on quality

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan last year imported \$3 billion worth of goods while its exports of national products reached \$1.25 billion, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad. A total of 120 engineers from the private and public sectors took part in the one-day meeting, organised under a Jordanian-German programme for the development of national standards and specifications. Math Matthias Meyer, counselor at the German Embassy in Amman, outlined the main aims of the Jordanian-German standards and specifications project, saying that it is designed to boost Jordanian exports to world markets. Mr. Meyer also reviewed German-Jordanian technical cooperation in agriculture, rural development, vocational training, water and industry. According to Engineer Hassan Saoudi, head of the ministry's Specifications and Standards Department, the seminar was part of the ministry's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of industrial products.

Minister demands immediate action to curb cement factory pollution

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Mohammad Mahdi Farhan Monday instructed Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC) to take immediate measures to curb atmospheric pollution caused by cement dust and smoke emanating from its factory in Fuheis. "The situation is very serious and poses direct danger to the local inhabitants' lives," the minister said at a meeting. The Fuheis cement factory was built 40 years ago when the town had few inhabitants living away from the site of the factory. The town has since expanded significantly and its buildings are within the vicinity of the factory. Mr. Farhan said at the meeting which was called to discuss pollution from cement dust. Two German experts in the cement industry, representatives of several concerned departments as well as the President of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN), Anis Muasher, Senate Member Laila Sharaf and Engineer Hatem Halawani, the factory manager, were present at the meeting. "Measures should be taken immediately to deal with the pollution in Fuheis," said Mr. Farhan, adding that the present level of

pollution from cement dust in the town's atmosphere is nearly double that of the acceptable standards in European countries. For his part, Mr. Halawani outlined the factory's efforts to reduce the amount of cement dust falling from the chimneys to a minimum. He said that foreign experts have been invited by the factory to help it minimise the amount of falling cement dust. The German experts had suggested that the factory insulate itself from the rest of the town by setting up a "buffer zone" at least 500 metres wide while studies continue to introduce other and more effective measures to stem the source of pollution. The Fuheis residents sent a petition to the Lower House of Parliament and the Prime Minister earlier this year urging immediate government intervention to deal with the harmful effects of cement pollution. RSCN President, Mr. Muasher, reviewed the problems affecting the environment in Jordan as a result of the cement dust spewing up from the Fuheis factory chimneys and the Rashediyeh Cement Plant in Southern Jordan. "Not only dust but also smoke continues to rise from these factories, heavily polluting the atmosphere and affecting the town of Fuheis and the southern wild life reserve of Dana near the city of Tafleeh, said Mr. Muasher. Similar efforts had been contemplated by earlier governments including that of former Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker when then Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour stressed that the Jordan Cement Factories Company exert strenuous efforts at the sites of its two factories in Fuheis and Rashediyeh to combat environmental pollution. In March Dr. Ensour said the company's efforts come in implementation of directives issued by His Majesty King Hussein to give more attention to environmental problems. He said the ministry, the municipalities and the company understand the need to address environmental pollution, pointing out that any effort to tackle this problem will be difficult and costly. Speaking about the company's drive to tackle environmental pollution, he said the company is carrying out a JD 35 million programme in Al Fuheis and Al Rashediyeh areas. During the first stage of the programme, Dr. Ensour said, JD 10 million will be spent on installing dust filters, and the second

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ "ACOR at 25" in celebration of 25 years of archaeological research in Jordan, at the American Center of Oriental Research.
- ★ Art exhibition by Syrian artist Sakhr Farzat at the Balka Art Gallery, Fuheis City.
- ★ Exhibition of a new collection of art works by Princess Wijdan Ali at The Gallery, Hotel Jordan InterContinental.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings and ceramics by Ali Al Mi'mar, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Abdul Raouf Sham'oun and Jalal Ureiqat at Eshebeila Art Gallery, 6th Circle, Amra Shopping Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition by Rana Dia and Mohammad Kadoomi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of British Archaeological projects in Jordan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Criticism of Arab Political Thought" by Mohammad Kishly at the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

CONCERT

- ★ Concert by the Amman players' orchestra at 8 p.m. at the British Council.

JERASH FESTIVAL

- ★ Arabic recital at the Royal Cultural Centre at 5:30 p.m.
- ★ Concert by Jordanian singer Usama Jabour at the Southern Theatre of Jerash at 8:30 p.m.

Western Asia unemployment chronic — ESCWA

AMMAN (Petra) — The unemployment rate is chronic in the countries of the Western Asia region, currently affecting 10 to 20 per cent of their combined total workforce, according to the executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA). Nearly all these countries lack the proper means to measure and assess the exact rates of unemployment among their respective workforce and their statistical systems have failed to obtain reliable figures, said ESCWA Executive Secretary Sabah Bakjaji Monday at the opening of a four-day seminar organised to focus on the problem of unemployment and poverty in the Western Asia region. Most Arab states are represented at the meeting which is discussing unemployment issues, returning workers from the Gulf crisis, the relationship between unemployment and poverty, economic restructuring programmes

and economic reform. Case studies under scrutiny are Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and the Israeli-occupied Palestinian lands, according to ESCWA. "We hope that this meeting would give the participants sufficient opportunity to delve into these issues and team up with ESCWA to arrive at solutions," said Dr. Bakjaji. It is also hoped that the outcome of this meeting would reflect a united Arab stand on social problems to be submitted to the international conference to be held in Denmark, added Dr. Bakjaji. "The Denmark meeting, expected in March 1994, will address employment as a means of reducing the effects of poverty, and improving the status of society world-wide. Dr. Bakjaji explained. The meeting was opened by Minister of Planning Ziad Fariz who said unemployment is closely linked to the high population growth rates in the countries of the Western Asia. More births mean more people entering the labour market, including those with college education, the minister said. He said expanding higher education without linking it to the needs of the local markets contributed to the present high rate of unemployment among educated youth. Dr. Fariz urged the concerned authorities to search diligently for effective measures that would reduce unemployment rates and deal with social and economic problems. The participants to the seminar, at the Amra Hotel, are specialised in socio-economic issues or representatives of major organisations in the Arab World.



**WHEN YOU START IN FRONT,
YOU'RE A LEADER.
WHEN YOU STAY THERE, YOU'RE A WINNER.**



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The language of war

FOR THE second consecutive day Monday, Israel continued to wreak havoc on the cities and villages of Lebanon. To say that this new Israeli offensive will undermine the peace process is an understatement. The aggression, unjustified despite all the explanations that the Israeli propaganda machine is offering, exposes the true face of the Israeli policies and approaches in the region: That of an aggressor deaf to the calls of reason and unwilling to trade guns for dialogue.

Israel should stop its hostilities on Lebanon not just out of fear of another "Lebanon morass" or in order not to destroy the peace talks. It should do so because the killing of Lebanese and Palestinian civilians is an act of terrorism that the world should condemn and because the vicious cycle of violence that it is engulfing the area will save neither the Arabs nor the Israelis.

Tension in South Lebanon is not the outcome of a few Katyusha missiles that the Lebanese resistance fired on the occupiers of their land. It is the inevitable consequence of a situation that Israel first created by occupying Lebanese territory and then made worse by using it as a platform to intimidate the Lebanese people. There is one way to end this situation. It is for Israel to withdraw its troops from an area that they have no business being in.

By refusing to end its occupation of Lebanon, and indeed other Arab territories, Israel is strengthening the causes of the warmongers on both sides of the divide. The concept of Arab-Israeli peace can never sink in among people who continue to see their loved ones falling victim to the military might of Israel. Zionists who reject peace with the Arabs would argue more strongly that Israel can rely on its military superiority to force its terms on the Arabs. That, by any serious standard, is a recipe for continued war that Israeli policy is promoting.

"Do we bear children so that they can be killed?" the Jerusalem Post quoted an Israeli woman as saying when she saw an Israeli wounded man carried out of a building hit by a Katyusha. No, she doesn't. And it is the Israeli leaders who have to answer to her and to thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese women who have had to struggle with the same question for far too long. The deaths of Arabs and Israelis are tragedies for which only Israel is responsible. It is Israel which started the violence and it is Israel which can stop it.

No amount of Israeli fire can deter the Lebanese resistance from fighting to liberate their land. This is the reality that Israel should accept to understand and accordingly end the violence by recalling its troops home. This is the reality that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher too should have on mind when he tours the region later next week.

Occupation is the cause of all the bloodshed in the Middle East. If America wants peace in the region, it should work to end it, and end it fast.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

JORDAN HAS strongly condemned Israel's fresh attacks on Lebanon which caused widespread destruction and loss of innocent life and demanded a halt to these acts of aggression, said Al Rai daily Monday. The paper said that Jordan's voice was expressed by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali who reiterated the Kingdom's total commitment to peace and called for the world community to bring about an end to the sufferings of the people in the Arab region. The prime minister, said the paper, has described the escalation in Israel's war activities in Lebanon and the extensive raids on the Syrian, Lebanese and Palestinian positions as undermining the peace efforts before a tour of the region by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher. Indeed, said the paper, such aggression can only undermine the stability and security of the whole region and the continued occupation of Lebanon can only provoke violence and counter violence from both sides. The perpetuation of occupation and the continuous acts of aggression clearly prove that Israel is obsessed by its racist and expansionist policies, is determined to defy the international legitimacy and is not interested in the establishment of peace, the paper continued. The paper called on Arab countries to adopt a unified stand and take collective action, on all fronts and through all possible means, to stem Israel's arrogance and its evil plots against the Arab Nation.

COMMENTING ON Israel's renewed acts of aggression on Lebanon, a columnist in Al Dustour said that Lebanon and all the resistance forces in the south of the country have the legitimate right to fight occupation and defend the Arab homeland. Mohammad Kawash said that Israel is using the peace negotiations with the Arabs to protect itself in the face of any condemnation or criticism for pursuing its aggression on Lebanon. One can only express regret over the Arab World's stand with regard to the aggression and continued occupation of South Lebanon as the Arab countries are satisfied with issuing statements condemning the Israeli practices but not lifting a finger to deal with the situation, said the writer. In view of the situation, the writer said he did not expect the Arab parties to the peace talks to abandon their meetings with the Israelis because they are not concerned with what is happening in South Lebanon. But, he said, it should be emphasised that resistance activity in the occupied territories is the right of the local population who will no doubt intensify their daring attacks on Israel until it withdraws its troops from the region.

The View From Fourth Circle

Riding the confederal roller coaster once again

The on-again, off-again confederal embrace between Jordan and Palestine appears on again these days, which is a good thing in my view. Yet, the issue is complex and sensitive and if it is to be done right, the process and nature of confederation must be approached in a far more diligent and democratic manner than has been the case to date.

The modern legacy of Jordan/Palestine is an erratic record of unity and separation that reflected the rigours of 20th century Levantine political history, including: the post-1950 unity of the two banks of the Jordan, the occupation of the West Bank/Gaza in 1967, the proposition of the United Arab Kingdom in the early 1970s, confederal suggestions in the early 1980s, the joint Palestinian-Jordanian agreement of 1985, the Palestine National Council's official approval of confederal links with Jordan, the Jordanian disengagement from Palestine in 1988, the subsequent Jordanian official recognition of the state of Palestine, and, now, the renewed talks for confederal ties.

Three particular points strike me as important in today's context: the many bonds favouring confederation, the political dictates that drive the current confederal urges and the manner in which confederal ties may be achieved.

1) The fact of confederation is both logical and natural, given the small size of both entities, their many vulnerabilities and the strong bonds that have been established between both peoples in the last century (not to mention the even more powerful ancient historical/cultural forces that make confederation compelling). It would be a historical anomaly, and an almost impossible nation-building challenge, for Jordan and Palestine to try to develop as independent states separated by the sorts of borders and socio-economic barriers that define relations among most Arab countries.

Clearly, there is strength in numbers. Jordanians and Palestinians are more likely to assure a decent future for their people if they work hand-in-hand. This is especially true in terms of natural resources, transport and communication links, water, and economies of scale.

2) The motives for confederation, however, are as important as the factors that will determine it. I am sceptical of confederal arrangements that are driven by short-term diplomatic goals, as may be the case at present. We passed through this route in the 1980s, when confederal ties were mooted as a means of responding to the Reagan Plan and other American initiatives. The unspoken rationale and urgency for confederation, in the view of some but not all people, is that it would respond to Israeli-American concerns about an independent Palestinian state.

Confederation must reflect the historical and socio-economic realities of Palestine/Jordan and the human and political identity of both peoples. Its primary goal and impetus must be to assure the well-being of Jordanians and Palestinians and not to assuage the emotional frenzy and historical delinquencies of Israelis, Americans and other guilty parties. One of the most compelling lessons of our very ancient history in this region is that local geo-strategic arrangements that are devised by foreign powers, or on the basis of criteria those powers set for us, cannot and do not endure.

3) The way to overcome such potential pitfalls is to go about the business of confederation in a far more open and diligent manner than had been done in the past. This is not relevant only to

Jordanian-Palestinian ties, but also to the attempts to unify, confederate or integrate that have been made by scores of Arab states in the last half a century. Not a single attempt at intra-Arab national integration or unity has lasted for more than a few years, or gone beyond surface niceties, because the process of unification has always been flawed. (I do not count the so far successful unification of Yemen in this respect because the division of Yemen into two states was historically abnormal, and therefore the reunification was inevitable).

In all recent cases where Arab states have tried to integrate their resources and systems, the decisions were always made unilaterally by political leaderships that did not consult their people. Though grassroots support for pan-Arab integration remains strong, we have not seen a single case this century of unity that was brought about from the bottom up — i.e. by the people and by popular organisations setting the terms for unity and therefore establishing a strong foundation upon which the political leaderships could then build a lasting structure. This applies to Jordan/Palestine as well as to many other cases of unsuccessful Arab integration (Iraq/Syria, Libya/Egypt, Sudan/Egypt, Jordan/Syria, Egypt/Syria, Libya/Sudan, etc.).

"Confederation must reflect the historical and socio-economic realities of Palestine/Jordan and the human and political identity of both peoples. Its primary goal and impetus must be to assure the well-being of Jordanians and Palestinians, and not to assuage the emotional frenzy and historical delinquencies of Israelis, Americans and other guilty parties."

The current Jordanian/Palestinian confederal discussions are an opportunity therefore, to achieve three related aims: to develop stronger bilateral relations that serve the mutual interests of both people; to reverse the last century's pattern of indigenous national configurations that respond to foreign interests more than they respond to the interests of the indigenous Arab/Islamic people of this region; and to strike a powerful blow for the concept of Arab/Islamic pluralistic democracy that must become the defining feature of Jordan and Palestine alike.

The specific suggestion I would make today is that we should radically reassess the institutional and political arrangements in place for agreeing on confederation between Jordan and Palestine. The six committees of ministers and senior officials that are now working on the subject represent a continuation of the erratic political gyrations of the past — a top-heavy mode of political decision-making that has made the people dizzy with on-again, off-again confederal journeys that threaten to become a permanent historical roller coaster.

In their institutional totality and their political symbolism, the committees of Palestinian and Jordanian officials perpetuate a failed and wearisome legacy of top-heavy decision-making that has not brought Palestinians and Jordanians the national well-

being they both deserve. This is not necessarily the fault of the individuals, for the individuals change every few years. The problem is with the mechanism itself.

Unity or confederation decided by comfortable politicians, rich merchants, and well-entrenched bureaucrats is unlikely to work, because such people are not sufficiently in touch with the real lives of the millions of ordinary people who will make or break confederation in the end. Such a top-heavy decision-making process will only add to the confused national mythology of the modern Arab World, rather than improve the lives of ordinary Arab people. If it fails, it will only increase the scepticism, bitterness and anger that already define large segments of the Arab grassroots. Confederation is rather different from issuing a contract for imported lentils, determining axle loads or deciding on how best to promote long-term savings in the financial sector. Those kinds of technical decisions can be made by individuals or committees. Confederation is a whole different game — one that must be played by far larger teams on both sides.

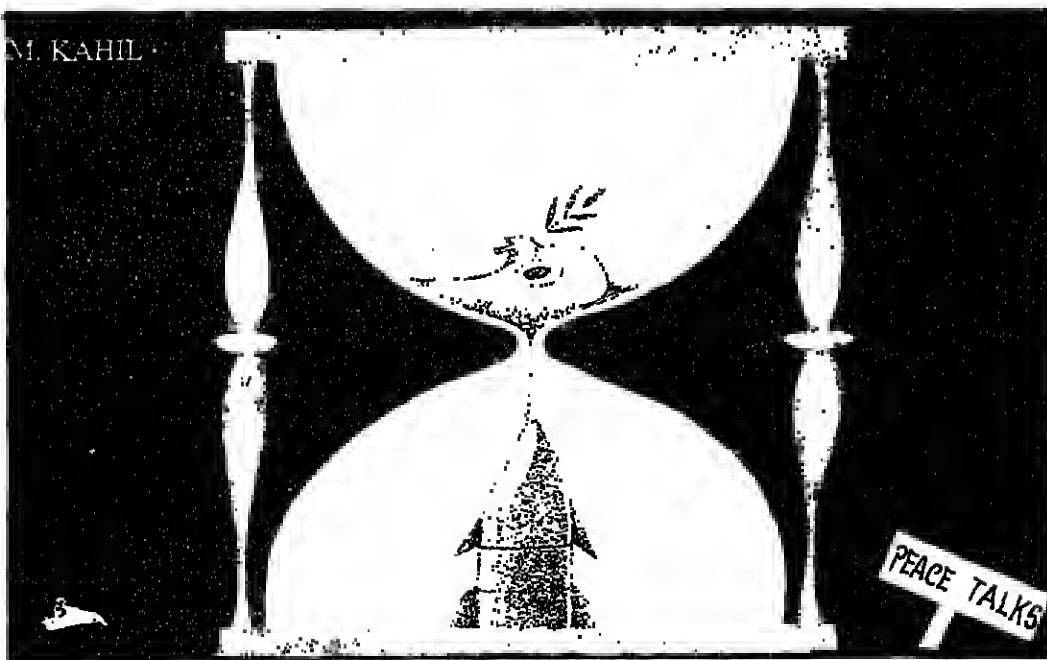
To succeed, the confederalisation process must be greatly expanded and strengthened by a very open and broad process of political dialogue and consultation at all levels of society. The importance of getting the confederation right, and the symbolism of adhering to democratic and consultative principles that we boast about so often, both demand an ongoing, honest, public dialogue about all aspects of confederation. Such a dialogue must take place in every corner of the land, in the media, in political institutions, in homes, schools, community clubs, religious gatherings, business enterprises, sectoral associations, sports and leisure clubs, by young and old, and men and women alike.

The people of Jordan and Palestine must be consulted about the nature and aims of the confederation now being proposed. The people of Jordan and Palestine must provide the primary inputs to a political process that may determine the fate of our children and grandchildren for generations to come. Many important and sensitive questions must be answered: What do we mean by confederation? Why do we want it? How will we express our distinct characteristics, while bonding together in those many areas where we form a single entity? How do we work out the question of a single representation of the larger confederated unity? How do we address the legitimate fears and concerns of folks on both sides? How can this confederation be established so that it could expand in future to include other component parts, and is such a future expansion desirable?

I believe that such momentous decisions should be made by the broadest possible cross section of Jordanians and Palestinians, rather than only by committees of bureaucrats/politicians who encapsulate some of the most glaring qualitative failures of modern Arab history. To give these two sectors responsibility for working out the articles of confederation between Jordan and Palestine strikes me as antiquated, cruel and faint-hearted.

We would look rather foolish, in the eyes of history as well as in the eyes of our children, if we go through another routine exercise of excited confederal discussions only to abandon the process a few months or years down the road, as has happened throughout this century. It is time we rid ourselves of the baggage of failed old ways and live up to the full promise of our contemporary democratic instincts.

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Real talks

By Shlomo Gazit

TWENTY ONE months have gone by since Madrid. After 10 rounds of exhausting and frustrating talks, the peace negotiations in Washington are stuck at a critical stage: the search for a joint Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles defining the purpose of the talks.

If the matter were not so serious, it would be funny. The present crisis is not over anything substantive or new; rather it is the third attempt to draft a compromise document on the purpose of the negotiations.

The first was 15 years ago, at Camp David. Discussions at the time on a document of principles for an Israeli-Egyptian peace included a general "framework" for an overall Israeli-Arab agreement, including one with the Palestinians (namely, an interim phase of five years of a self-governing authority in the territories administered by Israel, and talks beginning in the third year to determine the final status of those territories).

The second attempt came after the Gulf war, when former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker came to the region and shuttled among the capitals until agreement was reached on the negotiating format which was festively launched at the Royal Palace in Madrid.

And now, for 21 months, we have been trying to redraft the framework for negotiations.

Perhaps we are doing the process an injustice; at every one of

the three occasions cited, the attempt was made to slightly broaden what was agreed upon in the previous relevant document. But real, practical, negotiations — discussions on the issues themselves — have not yet begun.

Not only has there been no progress, but the feeling of frustration and disappointment on both sides has increased. Going through President Ezer Weizman's book, *The Fight for Peace*, in which he describes the talks with Egypt in 1977-79, one reads about the military negotiating delegation which he headed and which arrived in Egypt about a month after Anwar Sadat's historic visit to Jerusalem.

After a brief courtesy meeting with Sadat at his villa at Ismailiya on the banks of the Canal, the first talks were held. The Egyptian delegation was headed by the war minister, Gen. Ahmed Gamassi, the Israelis were led by Defence Minister Weizman.

Mr. Weizman was surprised: "They got straight to the point, without any delay over marginal details... Whenever I returned to discuss a detail, Gamassi backed up, saying 'We want to talk about immediate peace, it has to be a full, real peace... everything that you want.' At that stage, it was clear beyond any doubt: the Egyptians were striving for a goal we had never dared to think about: we had thought full peace was a matter for the coming generations."

What characterised the success of those talks were four elements;

— they were held without any media coverage;
— they did not include jurists and diplomats;
— there was no third party present;

— not a minute was wasted on discussing an agenda, a format, a procedure — it was a purposeful, frank discussion on the issues themselves.

Today, we are conducting negotiations as though their purpose was not to reach an Israeli-Palestinian peace (or an Israeli-Syrian one); we are talking with the object of drafting a legal document in which we would emerge the winner in a future trial to determine who had breached the agreement.

We need a conceptual change, a totally different approach; the goal should dictate to the parties how to approach a dialogue.

The present sense of dis-appointment embraces all three parties involved: Israel, the Palestinians and the U.S. administration. All of us involved in the Israeli-Arab conflict have rich experience in contacts and negotiations.

Are the parties really not capable of learning from the endeavours that succeeded?

The writer, a former head of military intelligence, is a senior research fellow at the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies of Tel Aviv University. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Handover delay likely, Nigeria analysts say

By James Jukwey
Reuters

LAGOS — Another delay looks likely in Nigeria's halting, six-year march towards civilian rule, analysts have said.

They said military President Ibrahim Babangida's annulment of last month's presidential poll, which business tycoon Moshood Abiola says he won, and opposition to a new vote from Mr. Abiola's party made the general's Aug. 27 promised handover doubtful.

"No one realistically believes a new election can be conducted in the next 33 days when it took more than three months to conduct the one that was cancelled," one said.

"An extension of the transition programme now seems like one way out," he added.

A group of northern professionals calling themselves the Committee for the Survival of Democracy in Nigeria called Saturday for civilian rule to be delayed until Dec. 31.

Analysts said the group, a counter to the Lagos-based campaign for democracy which organised the protests two weeks ago over the poll cancellation, was made up of people close to some members of the military regime.

Tension has been high in Nigeria since Gen. Babangida cancelled the June 12 poll, which foreign and local observers said was free and fair.

One newspaper reported Sunday under a banner headline that families were fleeing to their home areas.

"Non-indigenes in a number of states, particularly Lagos, Niger, Sokoto and Kaduna, have sent their wives and children back to the villages, fearing for their safety should there be any further demonstrations," the Sunday Champion said.

The military insists on a fresh election to choose Gen. Babangida's successor, Mr. Abiola's Social Democratic Party (SDP) has vowed it would not take part. Its sole rival, the National Republican Convention (NRC) says it will.

On Friday, both parties finally met the electoral commission to discuss a tightly-packed timetable for a new poll on Aug. 14. The only outcome was to schedule more talks.

SDP leaders said their presence at Friday's talks did not mean it would change its position on a fresh election.

"We are here to reemphasise the stand of the SDP that there will be no meaningful election

between now and Aug. 27," party Chairman Tony Anenih said at the meeting.

Under the electoral commission's proposed new time-table, the two parties were to submit the credentials of their new candidates Monday, a deadline analysts said was impossible because the parties have not yet even agreed to the new poll.

They said it was more likely other solutions to the crisis may have to be found and point to a well-publicised meeting held Friday between Gen. Babangida and Nigeria's 91 elected senators.

"That meeting is the first between the legislature and the president since the crisis began and that is significant," said a senior government official in the capital Abuja.

Gen. Babangida and the senators agreed to further consultations later this week on the political crisis.

Political sources said the sena-

tors resolved to find ways to break the deadlock, including considering the possibility of an electoral college by the national assembly to select a president; the fresh election could not take place.

But the source said it was unlikely the military would buy such an idea since it turned down its own suggestion of an interim government two weeks ago.

Gen. Babangida himself told the senators at Friday's meeting that "holding fresh elections is the only option conceivable in view of the annulment of the June election."

"No other mode for selecting the president of Nigeria's third republic will be proper and acceptable," he added.

Analysts said with no going back on the annulment and the time to organise a fresh election fast running out, another extension of the transition programme was quite likely.

LETTERS

Private vs. public

To the Editor:

I am one of those who speak out for the private sector and encourage the government to promote its endeavour in all fields. I do believe that the private sector is one of the logical and correct avenues for the government to take in an effort to correct and improve the present economic situation.

Having accepted the role of the private sector in Jordan, I do believe that it is the role of the media and the individual journalists to investigate and help bring to light the abuses, misunderstanding and positive exchanges that occur between the public servant and the businessman.

On many occasions the private sector is served positively by the public servant. Such cases should be credited and declared for all to appreciate.

There are also many cases where the public servant abuses the private sector. Such cases must also be brought to light for all to condemn and correct.

The private sector has not yet developed enough strength to stand up against the wrongdoing of the individual public servant. Journalism is the fourth column of democracy. Journalists are given the right to ask questions, declare, analyse and comment on all aspects of our society. Therefore, I call upon all journalists to carry out investigative reporting, protecting the interest of all parties, public and private alike.

Wajih Murad,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



ACOR marks 25th year in Jordan

By Jennifer Hamarneh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Archaeological research into the region east of the Jordan River took hold with American and European explorers of the 19th century, and an organisation, which perhaps can, at least theoretically, trace its roots back to those days, will Tuesday celebrate 25 years of concrete work in the Kingdom.

The institute is the American Centre of Oriental Research (ACOR), "a private, international, non-profit academic institution dedicated to promoting research and publication in the fields of archaeology, anthropology, history, languages, biblical studies, Arabic and Islamic studies and other aspects of Near Eastern studies."

In preparation for the event, which will be marked over two days, ACOR has published "ACOR: The First 25 Years," an illustrated book that first takes the reader through the 130 years of American research in Jordan, from 1838 to 1968. This section briefly describes the work of some of the early explorers and the development of ACOR's predecessor, the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR), originally established in Jerusalem in 1900.

Many 19th century Western visitors to the area published highly descriptive accounts of their travels. But in 1848 U.S. Naval Commander W.F. Lynch wrote "Narrative of the United States' Expedition to the Jordan River and the Dead Sea," which, according to ACOR, delved into a multidisciplinary approach to the study of the area that ACOR scholars continue to follow today.

During the early 20th century, the work of the Jerusalem-based ASOR developed and was refined, particularly in the "systematic methods of digging and recording." Still, two world wars interrupted excavations, and with the establishment of the state of Israel, ASOR was "cut off from direct participation in excavations in Israeli territory." Thus excavations expanded on the west and east banks of the Jordan River.

But, the Arab-Israeli war of 1967 "brought (ASOR's) archaeological activity to an abrupt end, and when Israel occupied the West Bank, an 'iron curtain' descended in the region, separating the two sides of the Jordan River."

Recognising this hindrance, the American Centre of Oriental Research in Amman was founded in July 1968 "to facilitate American participation in the excavation and preservation of Jordan's rich but largely untapped archaeological remains."

Over the next decade ACOR took shape, conducting excavations and surveys in cooperation with the Department of Antiquities and the University of Jordan.

In 1975 and 1976 the cooperative effort of these three institutions in an intensive survey of the Jordan Valley resulted in the identification of more than 200 archaeological sites.

According to ACOR, one of the most significant developments during the final years of the 1980s was the increase in the number of areas surveyed. Projects such as the Roman Limes Survey, the Yarmouk Dam Survey, the Baqa Valley Survey, Karak Plateau Survey, and the Wadi Al Hasa Survey, some of which continue today, were initiated at this time.

The rapid expansion of the centre's work led to the decision to construct a permanent headquarters suited to ACOR's needs.

On Aug. 6, 1984 a groundbreaking ceremony, attended by 200 friends and supporters of ACOR, was held for the new building and presided over by Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid.

On July 17, 1986, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad Ben Talal cut the ceremonial ribbon, officially opening the "only purpose-built research centre of its kind in the Near East."

The five-storey facility, in Tla Al Ali, today includes hotel rooms and apartments to accommodate more than 40 persons, a library of over 20,000 volumes and periodicals, offices and workrooms for resident scholars, a computer room, Geological Information System (GIS), Computer Aided Design (CAD) and drafting facilities, a 90-seat lecture hall with projection facilities, an archaeological conservation laboratory, and a darkroom.

ACOR Director Pierre M. Bikai explained that the centre was originally conceived as an institute "devoted exclusively

to archaeological research, primarily that inspired by biblical studies." He said that during the last 25 years, "that vision has broadened to involve ACOR in a variety of disciplines."

Dr. Bikai indicated that in 1993, there will be more ACOR-related projects in the field than ever before and other projects are in various states of publication, but the shift in emphasis to include all of Jordan's historic and prehistoric periods has been progressing for the past decade.

In cooperation with the Department of Antiquities, ACOR is involved in the excavation and restoration of several sites.

Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), current projects in this programme are the restoration of the Temple of Hercules in Amman and of a Byzantine church at Petra and the creation of archaeological parks in Madaba and at Ajlun in Aqaba, an ancient Islamic site.

It is hoped that these projects will help to increase tourism to Jordan.

In addition to the compilation of new information, ACOR is actively involved in the "interpretation of already existing data," and the use of the results to assist in preserving the cultural heritage of the Kingdom and the development of its tourist industry.

A component of this work is the Cultural Resources Management Programme, which seeks to "heighten awareness of the importance of antiquities among the business

community and government agencies as archaeological sites are increasingly threatened with destruction because of modern development."

The project is creating a data base containing all identified archaeological sites in the Kingdom so that when de-

velopment projects are planned and designed these sites can be taken into consideration and saved from any damage or destruction.

ACOR-assisted archaeological projects have numbered more than 70 during the last 25 years. Descriptions of 21 of what ACOR terms its most

significant projects appear in "ACOR: The First 25 Years."

Although ACOR sees itself as "firmly established at this time as the premier research facility of its kind in the Near East" its bouts with major

financial crises leave it less than secure, particularly because of the lack of a permanent endowment.

The opening celebration of ACOR's 25 years of involvement in the country is sche-

duled for 5.00 p.m. today at the ACOR centre in Tla Al Ali. An exhibition of some of the institute's projects will be on display, including its computer programme design for the Cultural Resources Management project and its computer application of the Geological Information System (GIS) programme in designing archaeological parks in Jordan.

On Wednesday at 7:00 p.m., the Temple of Hercules will be

dedicated in a ceremony at the Al Qal'a (the Citadel), marking the completion of the excavation and the restoration of the three columns at the Great Temple of Amman.

The project on the temple began in 1991 with the cooperation of the Department of Antiquities and the Ministry of Tourism. Visible from many parts of downtown, the three restored columns create a focal point for the Amman skyline.



The restoration of the great Roman temple, popularly known as the Temple of Hercules on Al Qal'a (The Citadel). The American Centre of Oriental Research Wednesday will dedicate the edifice, a



reminder of Amman's ancient glory (Staff photos by Aynsley Floyd)

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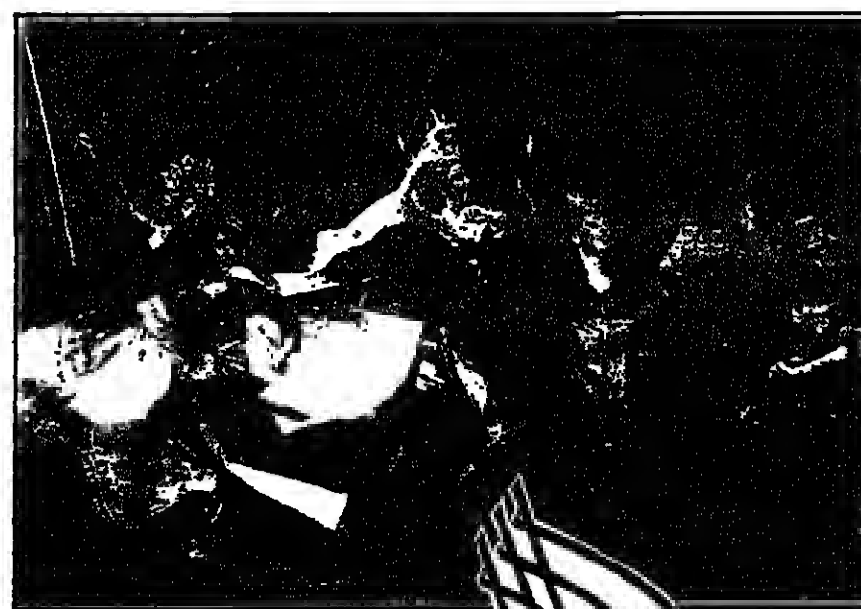
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Yeltsin eases rouble invalidation

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin Monday softened the central bank's sweeping invalidation of billions of old roubles, a surprise move that had stunned Russians and threatened a government crisis.

He said citizens would be given more time to trade old roubles for new banknotes and increased the amount they could obtain immediately in cash.

The central bank announced Saturday that only banknotes printed this year would be valid for purchases beginning Monday and gave Russians two weeks to exchange old bills for new. The move is intended to combat inflation by removing cash from the economy.

The finance ministry condemned the decree Monday, and Mr. Yeltsin's cabinet called a special meeting to deal with the situation after the president returned early from his vacation.

The rouble invalidation followed a week-long legislative attack on Mr. Yeltsin's market reforms by the legislature. Amounts over 35,000 (\$35) — about five weeks' average wages — were to be credited to savings accounts that could not be touched for at least six months. That would severely test most Russians, who depend on cash for most transactions and avoid putting money into banks because interest rates lag behind inflation.

Mr. Yeltsin raised the cap on cash exchanges to 100,000 roubles, excluding 10,000-rouble notes issued in 1992, which he said could be exchanged in unlimited amounts.

His decree extended the period for exchanging old notes until Aug. 31. Some smaller denominations also will remain valid for purchases throughout August.

The central bank's decree had sent Russians scurrying to try to get rid of their old roubles over the weekend, but many vendors refused to accept the old bills.

Parliament speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov had warned Monday that lawmakers would oust all officials who imposed the decree unless the deadline for exchanging old bills was extended and the amount people could get in cash increased.

In a television address, Mr. Khasbulatov charged the rouble invalidation was confiscating

Russians' wealth and violating their human rights. "This aggravates the socio-economic situation in the country even more and it must be urgently corrected," he said.

Russians frantically crowded around state-run savings banks Monday trying to get new 1993 banknotes for their old Soviet and Russian roubles. But many banks remained closed.

The only people who seemed happy were beggars in the Siberian city of Vladivostok, who collected thousands of old roubles that were tossed away by passersby, the radio network Mayak said.

Central bank and cabinet officials had said they took the step to combat inflation that is running at 20 per cent a month and to liquidate billions of old roubles outside Russia's control in other former Soviet republics.

Mr. Yeltsin reportedly supported the action as a way to pressure the other former republics to cooperate on monetary and economic policy, officials said.

But the action immediately blew up in his government's face by angering citizens. Mr. Yeltsin's decree said he was revising the measure to "defend the rights and lawful interests of Russian federation citizens."

The rouble jumped to 996.50 per dollar Monday, up from 1,004 on Friday, at the first currency auction since the measure was announced. But traders said the rise was due entirely to heavy buying of roubles by the central bank.

Private money traders at kiosks in Moscow were paying 1,200 roubles per dollar, in what appeared to be a more realistic indication of the rouble's strength.

The central bank estimates there are 250 billion old roubles in circulation, or about 12 per cent of the money supply. Five trillion roubles were printed in 1993, said deputy head of the central bank, Arnold Volokov.

Members of Mr. Yeltsin's government previously blamed the central bank for fuelling inflation by printing too much money.

The rouble invalidation was announced while Mr. Yeltsin was vacationing and Finance Minister Boris Fyodorov was in the United States.

OPEC head flies home with no sign of solution

MANAMA (R) — OPEC President Jean Ping flew home Monday from a tour of the Middle East with little public indication of a solution to the weak oil market.

Prices have nonetheless at least temporarily halted their fall as doubt grew about whether Iraq would be returning to the oil market soon and as it became apparent that OPEC would meet if prices went into a free-fall.

An airport source in the Saudi Arabian port of Jeddah said he headed home towards Gabon after a stopover in Jeddah. He had left Abu Dhabi Monday after earlier consultations with the oil ministers of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Mr. Ping arrived in the region Wednesday on a tour officially billed as preparation for an emergency ministerial meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) he had announced for the end of July.

It soon became clear that OPEC members were divided even on whether such a meeting was needed, especially given uncertainty on whether U.N.-Iraqi negotiations on limited Iraqi oil exports would succeed, leading to a postponement of the OPEC talks.

And there was little sign of getting of opinion on the substantive issues either — how to reintegrate Kuwait into the quota system, eliminating above-quota production and who should cut most if and when Iraq actually comes to the market.

The influential Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) said at least some common ground would have to be found on these three points before there was any prospect of a successful meeting.

"So far none of these conditions is remotely close to fulfillment," MEES said.

Mr. Ping said Thursday night he was postponing the meeting until sometime beyond the first week of August.

The oil markets fell somewhat last week when the meeting was postponed, but they have not reacted drastically since then to OPEC's difficulties, which have been paralleled by a lack of official word from Iraq on a return to U.N. talks on its sales.

EMS strains may force Bundesbank to cut rates

FRANKFURT (AFP) — Strains within the EMS might lead the central council of the Bundesbank to cut its key rates Thursday when it meets for the last time before the August holiday, German economists said here Monday.

At Julius Baer Bank, economist Gerhard Grebe said that he expected the discount and Lombard rates to be cut by half a point. This view was held by most other economists.

The Lombard rate has been at 8.25 per cent and the discount rate at 6.75 per cent since July 1. The central council would make its decisions Thursday purely by reference to international policy, Mr. Grebe said.

The rate of growth of German M3 money supply and of inflation, the two main indicators used by the Bundesbank, "are both going in the wrong direction," he said.

The M3 money supply grew by 7.1 per cent in June from the average figure during the last quarter of last year compared with a target set by the bank for the whole of this year of between 4.5 and 6.5 per cent.

Inflation in June was running at an annual rate of 4.2 per cent compared with a target of two per cent for this year and the first signs of the figure for July did not suggest that the rate was slowing down, he said.

But if the French franc were to leave the EMS then "European monetary union will be delayed until who knows when?" he said. The Bundesbank did not want to see this happen.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper in an editorial Monday made a veiled appeal for a devaluation of the franc.

Under a headline "The EMS must remain flexible," it said that "an EMS, functioning well, with

occasional changes in exchange rates" would contribute more to the pursuit of European integration than "a rigid system regularly raising new crisis."

At West LB bank, Irgeen Rust noted that the Bundesbank never justified its monetary decisions by reference to the international situation. But this did not prevent it from acting occasionally, as in September for example, in response to circumstances even if it did not acknowledge doing so clearly.

The economists said that the Bundesbank had firmly decided to support the franc because the fundamental forces of the French economy were "good" and because speculation was unjustified.

"The lira and sterling were over-valued within the EMS in September which is not the case of the franc," Klaus Baader of Union Bank of Switzerland Phillips and Drew. But he noted that the Bundesbank did not have "unlimited" room for action and doubted that a reduction of a quarter or half a point in key rates would bring calm to the foreign exchange market.

"It would then be up to the Bank of France," to act, he said. The bank had already taken one step by increasing its key ceiling rate from 7.75 per cent to 10 per cent Friday.

Mr. Rust said that European central banks had a duty to support currencies under attack "when the fundamental economic factors of the country of which the currency is being attacked, justify it."

A reduction, even minimal, of key rates should release some of the tension in the EMS "because the speculators are counting on nothing happening on Thursday."

Japan signals support for new East Asia grouping

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Japan threw its support Monday behind a proposal for a new grouping of East Asia's fastest growing economies formally endorsed by foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) here last week.

Japanese Foreign Minister Kishin Muto, speaking at talks here between foreign ministers of ASEAN and the six-member group's major allies, also pledged to continue channelling aid to the region to fund economic expansion.

The new grouping, a Malaysian initiative called the East Asia Economic Caucus (EAEC), was formally adopted as an ASEAN proposal after differences between Malaysia and Indonesia on setting up the Caucus were ironed out at the annual ASEAN foreign ministers meeting.

But South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-Joo said

Seoul needed time to think about joining EAEC.

ASEAN foreign ministers decided last week that EAEC would serve as an extension of the ASEAN economic ministers meeting but operate as a Caucus within the much larger 15-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. According to ASEAN officials, EAEC members would include most of those in APEC but excluding the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

ASEAN officials said Japan's support would provide the impetus for the EAEC's quick take-off, stalled largely by Tokyo's reservations on the plan, which was criticised by the administration of former U.S. president George Bush.

The Bush administration had

accused Malaysia of seeking to forge an East Asian alliance that could evolve into a trade bloc at a time of global concern over rising protectionism.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, participating in the so-called post ministerial conferences with ASEAN allies, warned Asian countries Monday to keep their markets open if they want continued U.S. engagement in the region.

Apart from the United States, ASEAN's major allies and dialogue partners are the European Community, Japan, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Korea.

Mr. Christopher said Washington was pushing ahead with its plan to host an informal conference of APEC leaders ministers failed to reach a consensus.

Malaysia has said it will not attend, but a senior ASEAN official said all the other ASEAN members would go to Seattle.

Iraq urges OPEC hostility against Saudi Arabia, Kuwait

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq renewed its criticism of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Monday and said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) would have to "unleash the sword" against them to stop them flooding the oil market.

"Oil exporting countries have to thoroughly realise that if they do not confront the greed of the Saudi and Sabah families (rulers of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait) ... they will have to stand up to what Iraq had to face in the past," warned the defence ministry

newspaper Al Qadisiyah.

It said sooner or later "they (oil producers) will have to unleash their sword" against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait whose rulers it said were "murderers. Mercenaries, agents and suckers of the blood of the people."

"They (Saudis and Kuwaitis) are back to their dirty conspiracy with exerted efforts to boost their oil production in order to lower prices," Qadisiyah said.

Iraq, its oil exports sealed by United Nations sanctions, warned Saudi Arabia and Kuwait

for the second straight day Monday of the danger of flooding world markets with oil.

On Sunday, the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra said: "The Arab masses ... cannot permit the Saudi and Sabah families and those following them or petrol sheikhs to squander Arab money."

Qadisiyah said Monday the depressed oil prices, which it blamed on Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, were directly linked to the "imminent return" of Iraq to international markets.

Israel devalues shekel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel devalued the shekel against the dollar by 2.0942 per cent Monday, cutting its value from 2,8050 to the U.S. dollar to 2,8650.

Central bank spokesman Yoav Lehman said the shekel also fell to 3,0709 from 3,0133 on Friday against a U.S. dollar-dominated basket of currencies, a 1.8756 per cent decline using the calculation of the International Monetary

Fund.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Abraham Shohat said Saturday they were raising the midpoint of the basket of currencies by two per cent. Actual rates can fluctuate five per cent either side of the midpoint.

At the same time Israel lowered the automatic gradual

annual devaluation of the shekel against the basket from eight per cent to six per cent in anticipation of falling inflation in Israel, Mr. Frenkel said.

"Since today is the first day of trading, the devaluations were very natural and an obvious outcome of the policy announced on Saturday," Mr. Lehman said.

Analysts: S. Korea likely to miss '93 macroeconomic goals

SEOUL (AFP) — The slump has hit rock bottom and South Korea's economy has started its slow recovery in the first quarter, but analysts say the government's projected growth rate of between six and seven per cent for the year is certain to be missed.

The central bank of Korea said in a recent release that the Gross National Product (GNP) grew by 3.9 per cent for the first six months to June this year, up from three per cent in the previous six months.

For the whole of this year, the central bank said, the economy

was expected to grow 5.7 per cent, with GNP expanding 7.2 per cent during the second half.

The central bank also said prices rose 4.2 per cent during the first half and projected an overall inflation rate of between 4.9 to 5.4 per cent for the year.

However, the central bank's official projections were viewed by economists as overly optimistic.

"The worst is passed, but recovery will be very slow and mild," an analyst with Korea Economic Research Institute of

the Federation of Korean Industries said.

"The government target of six to seven per cent growth seems overly ambitious," said the analyst, Lee Soo-Hee, pointing out that business firms were under-investing despite a recent short-term stimulus package.

As South Korea tumbled into its worst-ever slump in more than a decade, the new government of President Kim Young-Sam announced a 100-day stimulus package in March to jumpstart the sluggish economy.

Although the effects of the

package have yet to trickle down through the economy, increasing numbers of analysts fear the stimulus package will turn out to be ineffectual and will end up fuelling inflation.

The package included cheaper bank loans and the removal of red tape hampering business activities, but investment contracted 4.9 per cent during the first half of this year, compared to the same quarter a year earlier, amid lackluster prospects for profits on new investment.

The state-run Korea Develop-

ment Bank said in a report that capital investment was expected to gain 9.6 per cent during the second half for an overall increase of 2.4 per cent for the year.

However, economists noted that high interest rates discourage new capital investment as about 20 per cent of existing production facilities sit idle. Returns for three-year corporate bonds are now hovering over 13 per cent.

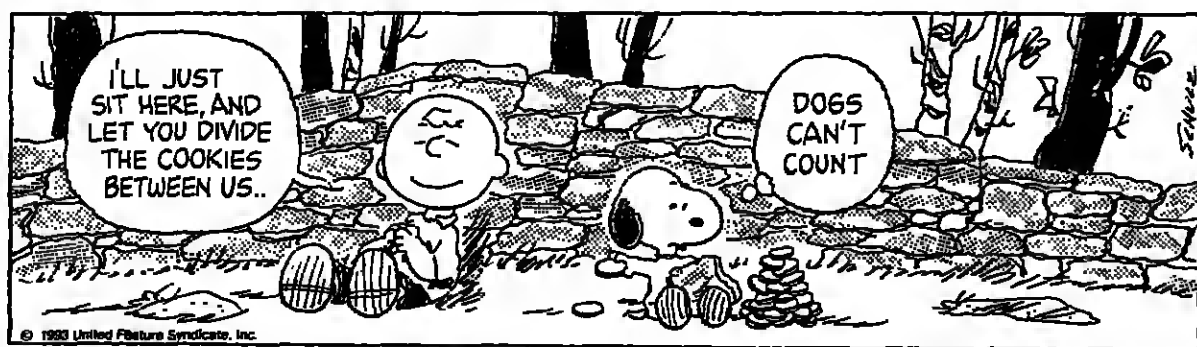
As a long-term prospect, they said, South Korea faces rising competition from China and

other developing countries in overseas export markets as it has not yet sufficiently upscaled its products.

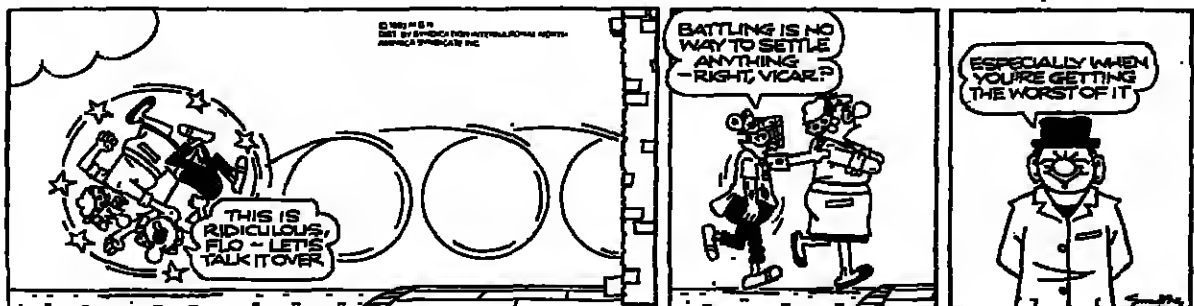
Exports benefitted from the stronger Japanese yen and cheaper South Korean won and surging demand from China to grow a remarkable 10 per cent during the first quarter of 1993.

The export growth rate then slid back to six per cent during the next quarter as effects from the stronger yen dried up and exports to China suffered from Beijing's anti-inflationary austerity policies, they said.

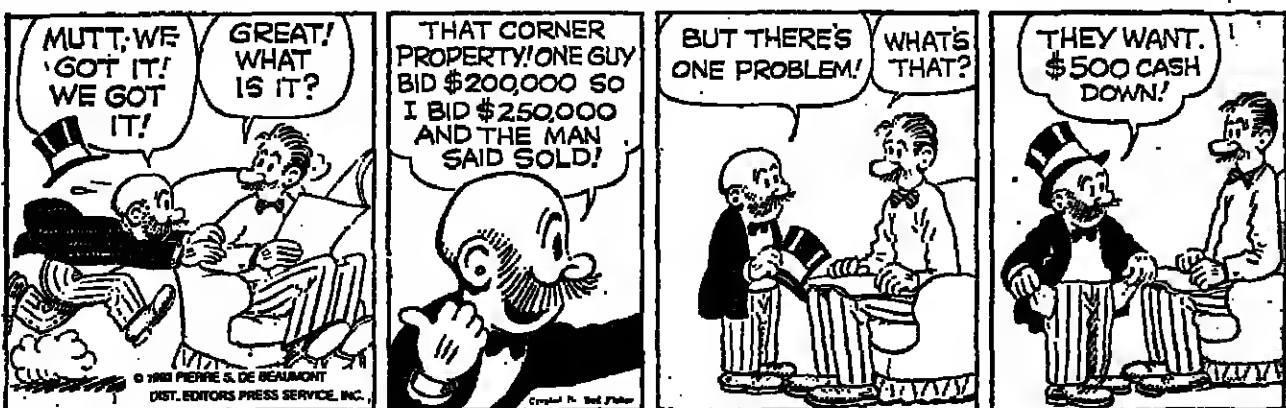
Peanuts



Andy Capp



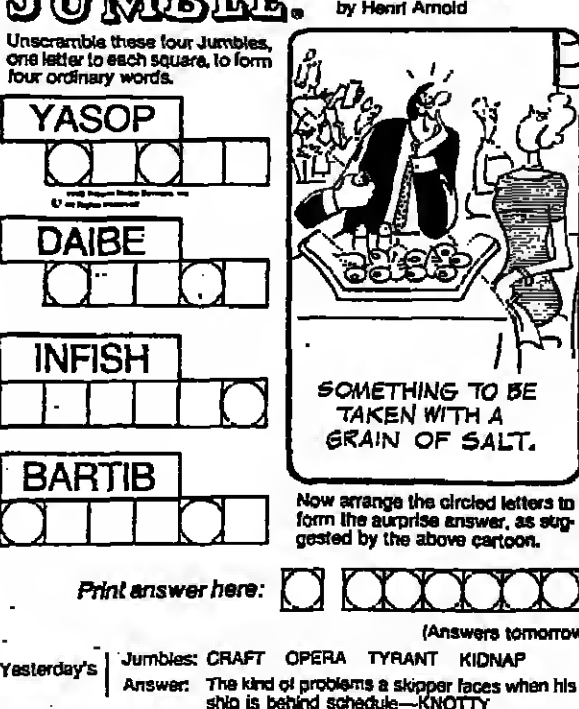
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THE Daily Crossword by Fred Toole



AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

CURRENCY	UNIT	PRICE	CHANGE
US Dollar	100	1.5065	0.0000
British Pound	100	1.7195	0.0000
Deutsche Mark	100	1.5200	0.0000
Swiss Franc	100	1.5200	0.0000
French Franc	100	5.8781	0.0000
Japanese Yen	100	106.90	0.0000
European Currency Unit	100	1.1295	0.0000

Financial Markets

Currency	NEW YORK	10YD
Sterling Pound	1.5065	1.5000
Deutsche Mark	1.7195	1.7245
Swiss Franc	1.5200	1.5225
French Franc	5.8781	5.8992
Japanese Yen	106.90	106.68
European Currency Unit	1.1295	1.1250**

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.06	3.18	3.63	3.75
Sterling Pound	5.75	6.06	6.06	5.88
Deutsche Mark	6.93	6.81	6.62	6.25
Swiss Franc	4.56	4.53	4.44	4.37
French Franc	11.00	8.87	7.62	6.62
Japanese Yen	3.18	3.18	3.06	3.09
European Currency Unit	8.75	8.19	7.37	7.06

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.695	0.697
Sterling Pound	1.0421	1.0473
Deutsche Mark	0.4025	0.4045
Swiss Franc	0.4558	0.4581
French Franc	0.1179	0.1185
Japanese Yen	0.6504	0.6537
Dutch Guilder	0.3580	0.3598
Swedish Krona	0.0856	0.0860
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0433
Belgian Franc	0.11944	0.01954

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8180	1.8380
Lebanese Lira	0.03915	0.04200
Saudi Riyal	0.1848	0.1855
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2200	2.2900
Qatari Riyal	0.1880	0.1920
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2300
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.8200
UAE Dirham	0.1880	0.2920
Greek Drachma	0.2875	0.3275
Cypriot Pound	1.3415	1.3850

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Currency	1.2805/15	1.7270/80	1.9415/25	1.5192/02	35.84/86	5.9000/50	1607.09/0	106.65/75	8.0380/80	7.3650/00	6.7085/35	1.4995/05	3389.80/390.30
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One sterling													
One ounce of gold													

Indonesia mulls quitting rubber, coffee groups

JAKARTA (R) — Indonesia, hit by sagging prices of many of its agricultural exports, has said it was considering quitting several commodity organisations including those grouping coffee and rubber producers.

The official Antara News Agency quoted Trade Minister Budiardjo Yudono as saying he was reviewing membership of both the International Rubber Organisation (INRO) and the International Coffee Organisation (ICO).

"Indonesia is reconsidering the merits and demerits of remaining a member of the two organisations. We may well withdraw from them if we conclude that the demerits outweigh the merits," he was quoted as saying.

Last month Mr. Yudono said he was reviewing Indonesia's position in the two organisations but stressed it did not necessarily mean Indonesia planned to leave them.

Antara said Mr. Yudono blamed the two for poor policy decisions which he said had on occasion triggered price drops.

Leaders of Latin America's eight major coffee producing nations last week called a meeting in early September to consolidate a coffee retention scheme to push up prices.

They invited other producers to join the scheme and a new association they plan to form.

Mr. Yudono did not comment on the Latin Americans' offer.

Yemen sees prosperity as more oil flows

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Yemen, classified as one of the world's poorest nations, is looking to a new era of prosperity as its oil production rises and more crude and gas are discovered.

From a few hundred barrels a decade ago, the Red Sea country hopes crude output will reach 400,000 barrels per day (b/d) this year and more than 700,000 b/d before the year 2000, according to Yemeni officials.

Yemen currently produces about 280,000 b/d and a newly discovered giant field in the southern province of Hadramaut would add some 120,000 b/d when it is commissioned in September, to mark the country's national day.

"Yemen is entering a new era of development and prosperity as studies have shown it sits atop huge oil and gas resources," Yemen's ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mohammad Al Khawli, told AFP.

The new field at Masila was struck by the Canadian Occidental oil firm in December 1991 and its reserves have been revised up to more than a billion barrels from around 500 million, according to Yemeni officials.

Oil will be pumped to the port of Shahr through a 165-kilometre pipeline, which along with other facilities have to date cost \$500 million.

The field's reserves have pushed up Yemen's total crude reserves to around four billion barrels but officials expect that to increase as more than 30 Arab and foreign companies are still exploring for hydrocarbons.

In a report from Sanaa, the UAE semi-official daily Al Ithad quoted Yemeni oil officials as saying the field's production could increase in future as more

crude is expected to be discovered in that area.

"Oil exports from Hadramaut for the first time constitute the beginning of a prosperous age for Yemen," it quoted the province's governor, Saleh Abdu Al Khulani, he saying.

The Republic of Yemen which emerged in May 1990 from a merger of North and South Yemen, hopes additional oil export revenues will help it tap its enormous gas reserves and tackle its worsening post-Gulf war economic problems.

Its gas reserves of 4.6 trillion cubic metres are among the largest in the world but its production does not exceed 1.4 billion cubic metres a year, a fraction of output in neighbouring Gulf states which have equivalent reserves.

Yemen's current crude output — with domestic consumption standing at about 65,000 b/d — fetches it nearly a billion dollars a year. The figure is expected to rise sharply when oil from Masila begins to flow.

Oil exports have helped Yemen cut its budget deficit by boosting revenues to \$2.8 billion in 1991 against \$1.3 billion in 1985.

Yemen is saddled with external debts of about \$6 billion and a one-billion-dollar trade deficit.

The country suffers from a low growth and investment rate and high unemployment, triggered by the repatriation of more than a million Yemenis from Saudi Arabia during the Gulf war, when their country was viewed as siding with Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

Yemen recently launched a diplomatic campaign aimed at mending fences with its wealthier Gulf Arab neighbours in a bid to attract aid and investments. It is working to settle a land dispute with Riyadh.

UAE banks asked to detail their financial positions

ABU DHABI (AFP) — United Arab Emirates (UAE) monetary authorities have asked all UAE banks to present details of their financial position as part of a drive to strengthen the banking sector along guidelines set by the Bank of International Settlements (BIS).

In a circular obtained by AFP, the central bank told banks they should provide statements about their loans over the past five years, as well as their shareholders, equities and deposits with banks outside the UAE.

"All banks were asked to supply such financial details for the mentioned period before July 31," the circular said.

It also asked them to supply figures on their assets and liabilities in the other Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and among countries belonging to the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The move is the latest in a series of measures by the central bank to ensure local banks boost their financial position and meet the BIS's eight per cent limit of capital adequacy, which is the ratio between shareholders' equities and assets.

The other GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait and Qatar — have also embarked on measures to force banks to raise capital adequacy.

The adequacy level, recommended by the BIS's Bank Committee, took effect early this year and is considered as a guideline for banks worldwide to ensure they have enough funds to face a financial crisis.

Government measures in the UAE, launched just after Basel 1988, have produced results, with several banks reporting a sharp rise in capital adequacy and others working to meet BIS standards.

Although no mergers occurred, shareholders' equity in national banks rose by 5.5 per cent to 11.65 billion dirhams (\$3.17 billion) in 1992 after an increase in capital and provisions, a central bank report showed.

With assets standing at nearly 100.5 billion dirhams (\$27.3 billion) at the end of 1992, capital adequacy exceeded 11 per cent.

U.S. share in Bahrain offshore banking rises

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — The share of American banks in Bahrain's offshore banking market climbed to 41 per cent last year, compared to only 29 per cent the year before, the Bahrain Monetary Agency's annual report has said.

The agency, which acts as Bahrain's central bank last week reported a 30.7 per cent increase in the assets of offshore banking units in 1992. It said these totaled \$69.8 billion in 1992, compared to \$53.4 billion in 1991.

The report stressed that the offshore banking units had recovered from the doldrums of the 1990-91 Gulf crisis.

Like the rest of the countries in the region, Bahrain suffered a flight of capital after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

One month before the invasion, assets of the banking units were estimated at \$71.17 billion.

The island state of about half a million population has established itself since the oil boom years of the 1970s as an offshore banking center for the Gulf region.

The agency report said 47 banking units operate on the island.

The increase in the U.S. share of the market apparently was at the expense of Arab banks. The report said the Arab banks' share fell to 41 per cent, compared to the 53 per cent registered in 1991.

Among other banking groups, the share of French banks rose by 0.6 per cent to seven per cent, while that of British banks fell to 1.1 per cent from 1.3 per cent.

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Sports

Indurain years may have only just begun

PARIS (R) — Miguel Indurain may not seek records but the case of his third successive Tour de France victory Sunday suggests the Spaniard's prime years may have just begun.

Indurain, only the fourth rider to win three Tours in a row after Frenchmen Louison Bobet and Jacques Anquetil and Belgian Eddy Merckx, has so totally demoralised his rivals it is hard to see where a real threat can come from.

Italians Gianni Bugno and Claudio Chiappucci, who had vied with him in each of the past two years, collapsed under Indurain pressure this time.

Both now openly accept Indurain's invincibility in major stage races. "There's only one rider who can even think of winning the Tour at the moment and that's Indurain," said a resigned Chiappucci.

"He's against riders who are afraid of losing and nobody really attacks him," said Frenchman Laurent Fignon, twice a Tour winner.

"If people don't change their approach, we can expect to see this repeated for quite some time yet."

The one rider who looks capable of taking on the Spaniard on anything like equal terms is Swiss Tony Rominger, who came second overall and won the prestigious king of the mountains jersey.

Rominger consistently set Indurain a blistering pace in the climb and had the audacity to beat him in the penultimate stage just outside Paris, an individual time trial which has long been the Spaniard's forte.

But the Swiss still finished almost five minutes behind, mainly due to bad luck early in the race when his Spanish Clas outfit had time added on for illegal help in the team time trial. A hailstorm just after he started in the first individual race against the clock also cost him dear.

Curiously, Rominger believes he could beat Indurain but that he will not.

"I ride for a Spanish team and our priority is the Tour of Spain," he said. "The ideal preparation for the Tour de France is the Giro d'Italia because it's not possible to be on top form for six months."

Rominger, winner of the last two Spanish Vueltas which start at the end of April, is in no position to drop that race to help his Tour de France prospects.

On top of that he is already 32 and his future chances of taking on Indurain must be limited.

If there is anyone around who can stop Indurain equalling Anquetil and Merckx's record of four successive victories, he is not immediately apparent.

At 29, the Spaniard is in his prime and it is not difficult to imagine him going on to equal and even surpass the record total of five wins held by Merckx, Anquetil and France's Bernard Hinault.

Capriati wins New Jersey tennis title

MAHWAH, New Jersey (R) — Jennifer Capriati regained her title at the 150,000 Pathmark Women's Tennis Classic with a blistering winning effort against favoured Mary Joe Fernandez in an all-American battle Sunday.

Capriati, ranked number nine in the world, won the final eight games against a visibly tiring Fernandez for a 6-3, 6-0 upset victory in a 72-minute battle played in 40-degree Celsius (103-degree F) court-side temperature. The 17-year-old winner earned a purse of \$20,000 and number seven Fernandez settled for \$14,000.

Capriati was extremely pleased with her game. "I played very well," she said. "My serve was on and I felt confident whenever I went to the net."



Jennifer Capriati

Capriati, who beat Monica Seles in the 1991 final and lost to Seles in last year's title round, allowed only six points in the second set. She closed out the match with successive aces, her third and fourth.

"I did feel a bit tired," acknowledged Fernandez, who was pushed to three sets in a near three-hour semifinal Saturday night by No. 14 Mary Pierce of France.

"It was hot and Jennifer played very well. She felt confident in the second set and went for her shots," Capriati, who had a single

break point in each of the second and fourth games, broke through in the sixth for a 4-2 lead on a forehand placement. But Fernandez broke right back to 4-3 on a service winner, a double fault and two forced errors.

Fernandez, runner-up to Steffi Graf at the French Open, was broken in the eighth game when she committed an unforced forehand error on the fourth break point.

Ahead 5-3, Capriati fought off a break point in the ninth and held for the set with a backhand winner.

"I had problems with my serve

accuracy and she was teeing off on my second," said Fernandez, who later withdrew from the doubles final due to a flareup of a tendinitis condition in her right shoulder. She committed 24 unforced errors in the opening set.

Capriati dropped only 17 games in four rounds, previously winning straight-set matches over three other American opponents, Terri O'Reilly, Beverly Bowes and Lisa Raymond.

In their only previous match on the Kraft Tour, Capriati, beat Fernandez, 6-2, 6-4, in the quarterfinals of the 1990 French Open.

Tapie says Bernes will get job back if his name is cleared

PARIS (Agencies) — Marseille President Bernard Tapie, undaunted by scandal surrounding the European champions over match fixing allegations, says club General Secretary Jean-Pierre Bernes will get his job back if his name is cleared.

Mr. Bernes, at the centre of the scandal and under judicial investigation for corruption, resigned at the weekend.

"If the proceedings show his innocence, as I hope, he will resume his duties," Mr. Tapie said in an interview with Libération newspaper published Monday.

Mr. Tapie said he had just applied the regulations. He said all journalists were invited into the stadium but only the private Channels TF1 and Canal, had permission to film the match.

Mr. Tapie, who is angry at state television coverage of the scandal, last defended his behaviour last Thursday, when he threw a television camera belonging to France 3 into the sea. He said he had responded to "unacceptable voyeurism."

Mr. Tapie had just welcomed the newly-released Mr. Bernes onto his yacht. "The right to information is essential, but this does not include the right to invade people's privacy," he said.

"When television journalists use their cameras like rifles with telescopic lenses, they'd better bear in mind that I am not prepared to act as a target," he told the southern French newspaper Le Provençal.

Former Valenciennes trainer Boro Primorac, who has alleged a Corsican businessman propounded he take the blame for the fixing allegations, was due to be questioned Monday afternoon by investigating magistrate Bernard Beffy.

Olympique Marseille faced a storm of protest Monday over the treatment of journalists wanting to cover the first match of the season.

With many fans angry at the way accusations of bribery against Marseille have been covered by the media, one cameraman was assaulted.

French Sports Minister Michele Alliot-Marie said the treatment dealt out was "absolutely scandalous."

Violence at Marseille and Bordeaux on the same night have

also been condemned by the Communications Minister Alain Carignon. At Bordeaux, a film crew was attacked by hooligan spectators in an unrelated incident.

Mr. Carignon said in a statement: "The incidents of recent days mark an increase in intolerance, a lack of respect for journalists' ethics and the code of conduct that was drawn up."

The France-2 and France-3 television channels have already complained and filed complaints. Journalists unions have also attacked the Marseille measures.

French law allows all media to cover games for news purposes even if a channel has exclusive rights to show a whole match.

A France-2 cameraman was seen on television being headbutted by a middle-aged Marseille fan and abused by other spectators apparently angered by coverage of the Marseille bribes scandal.

Mr. Tapie's name was at the centre of latest questioning in the bribes affair Monday.

Though he has not been linked with allegations that the Marseille player and official tried to bribe the three Valenciennes players other accusations have been made against him.

Boro Primorac, who was Valenciennes coach at the time, was questioned by Mr. Beffy Monday over his claims that Tapie approached him to take the blame for the bribes affair.

Mr. Tapie has denied meeting Mr. Primorac and offering him money and an alternative coaching position.

A lawyer for Mr. Bernes said Monday he had asked for the case to be transferred from the Valenciennes court.

The lawyer Jean-Louis Pelletier said the request had been made "in the interests of justice."

Mr. Pelletier and Mr. Tapie have complained about the investigative methods used by Mr. Beffy and Valenciennes prosecutor Eric De Montgolfier.

Abedi Pele inspires Ghana to a place in African Nations Cup final

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Ghana's African Footballer of the Year Abedi Pele ended a short-lived retirement from international soccer to lead his country to a place in next year's African Nations Cup final.

Abedi Pele, a member of French club Marseille's European Cup winning team in May, made a last-minute decision to return to national team colours and scored a goal as Ghana beat Liberia 2-0 in Monrovia Sunday to qualify for the finals in Tunisia in March.

Ghana were one of eight countries to secure their berths over the weekend as the qualifiers for the 12-team tournament came to a dramatic end.

Algeria, Egypt, Gabon, Mali, Nigeria, Zaire and Zambia join Ghana, hosts Tunisia, holders Ivory Coast and Sierra Leone in next year's tournament.

Only one qualifying group remains to be decided after the Group 6 qualifier between Congo and Guinea in Brazzaville was postponed to Aug. 15.

Among the countries eliminated were three teams still involved in the African qualifiers for the World Cup finals in the U.S. next June.

Cameroun were pipped by Gabon in Group 1 despite not conceding a goal in six qualifying games, while Morocco and Zimbabwe also fell at the last hurdle.

The second goal in the Black stars' win.

German-based Anthony Yeboah got Ghana's first as the West Africans finished top of group 7.

Cameroun, who beat Niger 2-0 at home Sunday, spent anxious moments awaiting the outcome of Gabon's match against Benin in Cotonou.

Their hopes were dashed when Gabon scored a last-minute winner for a 2-1 win to end one point ahead of the Camerounians in their group.

Algeria, Nigeria and Zaire pulverised their respective opposition to ensure their places.

Zaire had the biggest win Sunday, beating Lesotho 7-0 in group 4 in Kinshasa, led by a hat-trick from Saidi-Tshindaye Masudi.

Nigerian striker Rachidi Yekini also got three goals as the Super Eagles beat Ethiopia 6-0 at home Saturday to finish top of Group 2.

Abdul Hafid Tassafout's hat-trick against Senegal in Timenon Sunday saw him end as the leading goalscorer in the qualifiers with six goals.

Algeria won 4-0 to finish second behind Sierra Leone in Group 3 and go through to the finals.

Mali's 2-1 win over Egypt in Bamako Sunday saw them take top place in group 8 and qualify for the Nations Cup finals for the first time since 1972.

Egypt are also through despite their defeat ending ahead of Morocco, 2-0 winners away against Malawi Sunday, by the

narrowest of margins.

Both North African countries ended tied on points and goal difference, but Egypt scored one goal more than the Moroccans in the qualifying tournament and will play in Tunisia next March.

Zimbabwe's first bid in 13 years to qualify for the Africa Nations Cup collapsed in disgrace when the so-called Warriors were humiliated by a youthful and inexperienced Zambian side.

Sunday's 1-1 draw with Zambia, rebuilding their team after 18 top players died in a plane crash in April, raised serious questions about the future of the Zimbabweans who are nursing hopes of qualifying for the World Cup finals in the United States next year.

"The immediate future for the team does not look good, though there is still faint hope they can make it," said Jaboor Omar, sports editor of Zimbabwe's Herald newspaper.

"What Zimbabwe's team showed Sunday was that they can't score. They had many chances to stay ahead but they blew these. We simply don't have good strikers."

The Zimbabweans, playing in front of a partisan crowd of 60,000, took the lead in the 27th minute through striker Henry McKop's header, but let several chances go, begging when they failed to score from close range.

The Zambians, needing just a draw to qualify, equalised in the 80th minute through forward

Kalusha Bwalya of Dutch club PSV Eindhoven.

"I think the team needs to go back to the drawing boards — start learning how to play professional football from scratch," said a senior sports analyst.

"At the moment, they can't even pass the ball properly and clearly they don't play coherently."

Newspaper headlines proclaiming "sad day for Zimbabwe" and "Zimbabwe blow Africa Cup chances" greeted the southern African nation of 10 million people Monday as it contemplated its defeat after a promising start to the continental contest last year.

Omar said the Warriors, also known as the "dream team," faced a daunting task in their campaign for the World Cup finals because they first had to defeat Cameroun's Indomitable Lions, one of the continent's best and seasoned teams.

"I can't see the Zimbabweans making it in Cameroun's capital Yaounde on Oct. 10, when they clash with the Lions. In fact, few teams ever do," he said.

"The Camerounians will be having home advantage and because they have also lost out in the Africa Nations Cup they have nothing else to play for except the World Cup."

The Zimbabwe side will also have to beat Guinea in Harare on Sept. 25. "We have to beat the Guineans by at least four goals if we are to stand a chance of going to the World Cup at all," Omar said.

Brazil stunned by 2-0 defeat against Bolivia

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Brazil's players were clearly stunned and bewildered as they tried to explain how they lost 2-0 to unrated Bolivia Sunday, their first-ever defeat in a World Cup qualifier.

"We suffered a goal at the end, only God knows how it happened," said centre-forward Bebeto.

"Everybody made mistakes and that includes me. I made more than most," said Cafu who began the game at fullback before being moved up to midfield.

"It happened," was all goalkeeper Taffarel could muster as he left the pitch.

Taffarel was at the centre of the drama, turning from hero to villain in the space of seven dramatic minutes.

In the 81st minute he appeared to have capped a fine personal performance when he saved a penalty by Erwin "Platini" Sanchez with his legs with the score at 0-0, silencing the critics who had questioned his presence in the team.

But disaster struck in the 88th minute when he deflected Marco Etcheverry's innocuous cross into his own net. A minute later, Alvaro Pena added to his misery by scoring with a shot which went through his legs.

"The altitude affected us, Luis Henrique suffered and Ral wasn't the same as usual," said coach Carlos Alberto Pereira of the match, played 3,700 metres above sea level in La Paz.

"But the team didn't play well and we didn't impose our rhythm."

Asked what he thought the reaction would be back home, he replied: "The fans must back us, we have another six games to go."

The result left Bolivia top of South America Group B with

four points from two games and Brazil languishing in fourth place with just one point from two games.

The Brazilians, however, will play four of their final six fixtures at home and the five-team group are competing for two finals places.

In the past, World Cup qualifying matches have been little more than a nuisance for Brazil, on the occasions when they have had to face them at all. But those days have clearly gone.

The Bolivian team, who recorded only their third win over Brazil in 19 matches, remained cautious about their chances of qualifying despite public euphoria which took thousands into the streets of the country's cities to celebrate on Sunday night.

"We have won two points but there is still a long way to go," said coach Xavier Askargorta.

Ironically, while Parreira has lost players through club commitments in the run up to the qualifiers, Askargorta has had all the time in the world to coach his squad following a players' strike which led to the suspension of the country's championship for five months.

Uruguay beats Venezuela

Uruguay had star strikers Ruben Sosa, Daniel Fonseca and Enzo Francescoli back in the side after patching up a long-standing row with coach Luis Cubilla.

But their only goal came with a thundering shot by full-back Jose Herrera in the 59th minute and it was the negative side of their game which caught the attention.

Uruguay displayed all their old tricks, including elbows in the face and vicious tackles from behind in the South American Group B match.

Venezuela's team doctor worked overtime as he attended numerous injured players on the touchline after rough Uruguayan challenges.

But only Hector Moran, Santiago Ostolaza and Daniel Fonseca were booked by Colombian referee Jose Torres.

Sosa, Fonseca and Francescoli were all disappointing and most of the skill came from the 'unheralded' Venezuelans.

Venezuela, with Belgian-based striker Stalin Rivas back after suspension, were unrecognisable from the team humiliated 7-1 by Bolivia the week before and deserved a draw.

Sjoberg back in form in rain-hit high jump

COPENHAGEN (R) — Former World record holder Patrick Sjoberg, recapturing form after an Achilles tendon injury, scored an encouraging high jump win Sunday which augured well for next month's World Athletics Championships.

The Swede, world champion in 1987, cleared 2.30 metres to win from Norwegian Steinar Hoen (2.25) and Briton Steve Smith (2.20).

"This was one of my best results ever in rainy conditions," Mr. Sjoberg said. "I expect to be 100 per cent fit for the World Championships in Stuttgart next month."

Sjoberg, nursing the injury since early July, returned to competition last Friday with a jump of 2.28 for second place at the London Grand Prix behind Cuban

rival Javier Sotomayor, who cleared 2.40.

American Hollis Conway, fearful of risking injury, withdrew from competition after clearing 2.10 with his only jump.

The poor weather conditions souped Richard Chelimo's attempt on the 5,000 metres world record.

Chelimo, who held the 10,000 metres world record for five days this month before losing it to fellow Kenyan Yobes Ondieki, was paced by compatriots Peter Rono and Ismail Kirui, his younger brother.

He was on target for the first 2,000 metres but could not maintain the pace and finished 15 seconds outside the world mark of 12 minutes 58.39 seconds set by Moroccan Said Aouita in 1987.

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Polish swimmer disqualified for 2 months in doping case

WARSAW (R) — Polish swimmer Alicja Peczak has been disqualified for two months in doping case.

The association (PZP) has decided to impose an unusually lenient penalty: A two-month disqualification from June 5, 1993. PAP quoted the PZP as saying.

The association said in a statement "a number of irregularities had been found in the testing procedures, the most serious of which was a 24-day delay in announcing their results."

"In her 17-year career, Alicja Peczak had never done anything to cause the slightest suspicion of ever using impermissible substances."

Peczak, 23, said: "I accept the penalty imposed on me with my head held high, because I do not feel the least bit guilty. I used no performance-enhancers and I simply cannot understand how it was they were detected in my body."

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Abu Nowar assails 'reports that harm Arab reconciliation'

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Minister of Information Ma'an Abu Nowar Monday condemned what he called "a few press reports" that deviate from Arab consensus and harm the interests of the nation.

"The Ministry of Information strongly condemns any action that harms any Arab citizen, country or leadership," Dr. Abu Nowar said in a statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The minister did not refer to any specific press reports but informed sources said Dr. Abu Nowar made the statement in reaction to a report by Al Ahali weekly on alleged widespread women and child sexual abuse in Saudi Arabia.

The report, which was published Monday under the headline, "A Saudi princess reveals in a book for the first time shocking facts happening beyond the tall walls of the conservative society," reviews a book Al Ahali said a Saudi princess published through an American friend in Beirut.

In the book, the anonymous princess accuses male-dominated Saudi society of widespread sexual child abuses and rapes among other "tales that cannot be told," according to Al Ahali, the mouthpiece of the leftist Jordan People's Democratic Party.

"(The Ministry of Information) has complete confidence that the Jordanian press, which upholds the ethics of journalism, will denounce and condemn any action that harms Arab brotherhood and reconciliation and any action

considered as an interference in the affairs of other Arab countries," Petra quoted the minister as saying.

"The press will consider these harmful and irresponsible actions a deviation from its noble traditions and deeply rooted ethics," he said.

Dr. Abu Nowar said that a very limited number of "irresponsible reports" appear in some newspapers, which harm Arab reconciliation. "What is the interest of Jordan (in printing such reports)?" the minister told the Jordan Times.

The minister urged the press not to be dragged into what he called "other countries' internal issues that serve no purpose." The Jordanian governments have often found themselves having to account for what appear about neighbouring countries in the local press even though they have no authority over what is printed, especially in the tabloid political newspapers that were licensed after the enactment of the new Press and Publication Law in May, sources said.

They said that neighbouring countries do not recognise that Jordan has a democracy and the press acts outside government intervention.

Governments which preceded that of Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali used to advise the press not to directly criticise leaders of Arab countries and to restrict their criticism to the policies of these states.

The new Press and Publication Law bans newspapers from carrying any reports or articles that harm the reputation of the leaders of Arab and friendly countries.



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa (left) Monday holds talks with his Sudanese counterpart Hassan Abu Saleh (AFP photo)

Second Iranian sub heads for Gulf

ABU DHABI (Agencies) — A second Iranian submarine bought from Russia has crossed the Suez Canal and is on its way to the Gulf, a British naval commander in the region said Monday.

"The submarine passed through the Suez Canal some time ago and is on its way to the Gulf," said Captain Tom Blackburn of the British frigate HMS Cornwall. "One of the submarines bought from Russia is already in the Gulf."

Iran is believed to have bought three Kiloclass submarines from Russia in a deal worth hundreds of millions of dollars as part of plans to rebuild its strength, which has shattered by the 1980-1989 war with neighbouring Iraq. Last year's purchases of submarines and the Iranian arms drive have caused concern for Iran's Gulf Arab neighbours, who fear it is seeking to control the region. But Iran has argued its armament programmes were purely for defence.

The United States, at political and ideological loggerheads with Iran since the 1979 Islamic revolution, has called for Tehran's isolation and accused it of seeking weapons of mass destruction and involvement in state terrorism.

Military sources in the region said Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states — Bahrain, Oman, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) — were now considering

buying submarines to face the Iranian threat.

The six members have also embarked on plans to bolster their armies after the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait exposed their vulnerability. This has prompted them to sharply boost defence spending despite falling oil revenues.

"We are watching the situation closely but I do not know when the second Iranian submarine will enter the Gulf," Capt. Blackburn told AFP in a telephone interview from his anti-submarine frigate at the Abu Dhabi port of Zayed.

Cornwall is in the Gulf for the first time and is the only British ship in the region at present. It will stay for eight to nine weeks before it is replaced by another vessel, Capt. Blackburn said.

"It is part of our continuous presence in the Gulf to ensure peace and security in this vital region."

He noted the Cornwall, with a crew of 290, had just completed joint naval exercises with the United States and Kuwait. The exercises, he added, were part of ongoing manoeuvres with regional allies and would be held soon.

The United States has the largest foreign naval presence in the region, where Western powers are also inspecting ships to enforce United Nations Gulf war sanctions against Iraq.

U.S. brings in power

The U.S. aircraft carrier USS Abraham Lincoln cruised up the Gulf waters Sunday, bringing along a submarine to watch Iran, and doubling the Tomahawk cruise missile capability against Iraq.

The nuclear-powered carrier, one of the newest in the U.S. Navy, crossed the Strait of Hormuz was sailing up the 1000-kilometre waterway that leads to Iraq.

A navy spokeswoman, Joyce J. Zongrone, said the carrier was escorted by a battle group of seven ships that included the guided-cruiser USS Princeton and the nuclear-powered submarine USS Pasadena, both with Tomahawk capability.

The Abraham Lincoln was also in the Gulf waters two years ago, in the summer of 1991, when Iraq was embroiled with the United Nations in a major standoff over nuclear documents and helicopter access for weapons inspectors.

At that time, the carrier did not include submarines in its battle group.

The Abraham Lincoln group replaced the USS Nimitz group, which left the region last month. In addition to the submarine, the battle group has the cruiser Fox, the frigate Ingraham and supply ships Mount Hood, Williamette and White Plains.

Sudan, Egypt start talks to ease tension

CAIRO (Agencies) — Sudanese Foreign Minister Hussein Suleiman Abu Saleh and his Egyptian counterpart Amr Musa discussed Monday ways of resolving deep differences between their two countries.

"We have had frank and useful talks on all aspects of our relations," Mr. Musa told reporters after two hours of talks.

"The talks were extremely friendly and we hope to achieve success," said Mr. Abu Saleh, who arrived Sunday.

Mr. Musa said he held separate talks with Mr. Abu Saleh before experts joined the meeting. More talks will be held Tuesday, he said.

Egypt has accused Sudan's Muslim fundamentalist government of supporting Egyptian militants in their campaign of violence to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak.

The tension is reflected in an 18-month-old dispute over sovereignty of the Halaib triangle, an area of desert on their common border.

Mr. Abu Saleh told reporters on arrival that he came to Cairo "with an open heart" and hoping to open a new page in relations between the neighbours.

Relations have deteriorated sharply between Cairo and Khartoum since Lieutenant-General Omar Hassan Al Bashir took power in Sudan four years ago in a military coup. Gen. Bashir installed an Islamic fundamentalist regime and strengthened relations with Iran, both of which Egypt considered threats to national security.

The dispute between the two normally friendly countries came into the open when Sudan sold a Canadian company an oil concession in the Egyptian-Sudanese border area of Halaib. There was no prior consultation with Cairo, which considers Halaib Egyptian.

Sudan complained to the U.N.

Security Council, accusing Egypt of mobilising troops in Halaib and forcing Egyptian identity cards on people living there. Egypt denied the allegations.

In Cairo, Mr. Abu Saleh denied assertions that Sudan's most prominent Islamic fundamentalist leader is behind the deterioration in relations between Egypt and Sudan. Hassan Turabi, leader of the officially banned National Islamic Front, is thought to be the driving force behind Sudan's religiously oriented government. Many reports have named him as a leading member of an international Islamic radical organisation dedicated with Iran's help to destabilising the governments of Egypt, Algeria and others.

Hassan Turabi is among the first calling for strong Egyptian-Sudanese relations. Mr. Abu Saleh said, "As an Islamic thinker, he supports these relations."

Dr. Turabi's group has been accused of providing military training and money to Muslim radical groups. Sudan denies the existence of military training camps and has invited international teams to verify the denial.

Gen. Bashir arrived for an African summit in Cairo last month wearing the traditional white robes of one of the tribes that live in Halaib.

But President Hosni Mubarak agreed to meet Gen. Bashir and played down their differences afterwards.

"What happened in the past was a cloud. We have discussed all our differences and disagreements and we have clarified all the matters," Mr. Mubarak told reporters.

Mr. Mubarak said the two foreign ministers would hold detailed talks to resolve differences and then he and Gen. Bashir would meet again to endorse the results.

Egyptian officials expected the summit between the two men would be held next month in Cairo.

COLUMN

Russians see Thatcher as best leader — poll

MOSCOW (AFP) — Former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is the foreign politician Russians see as best equipped to lead their country out of its current crisis, a television poll said. Mrs. Thatcher got 12 per cent of the vote in the survey screened Sunday night by the popular weekly programme "Itogi." In second place with six per cent was former U.S. President George Bush, while current White House incumbent Bill Clinton, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet tied for third place with four per cent each. Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and Cuban leader Fidel Castro came equal sixth with three per cent each. The conditions under which the poll was conducted were not specified.

Filipino author gets Magsaysay Award

MANILA (R) — A Filipino author who promoted Philippine literature in the vernacular has won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for journalism, literature and creative communication arts, the award foundation said Monday. Bienvenido Lumbera, professor of Philippine studies at the University of the Philippines, was cited for "asserting the central place of the vernacular tradition in framing a national identity for modern Filipinos." Mr. Lumbera, who published his first stories and poems in 1953, earned a PhD in comparative literature as a Fulbright Fellow at the University of Indiana, the foundation said. He later joined the English department of the Ateneo de Manila University and established himself as a drama critic and a leading scholar of Philippine literature. Stirred by the wave of nationalism sweeping Philippine campuses in the late 1960s, Mr. Lumbera included more vernacular readings in his literature and drama courses and began to deliver some of his lectures in the national language. The foundation said Mr. Lumbera believed that until Filipino becomes the "true lingua franca" of the Philippines, the gap between the well-educated classes and the vast impoverished masses cannot be bridged. The Magsaysay Award, named after a Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957, is given annually.

Thailand ministry suggests home work to beat traffic

BANGKOK (R) — Thailand's Interior Ministry Monday approved in principle a plan which could mean thousands of employees working at home to reduce Bangkok's chronic traffic congestion. Deputy Permanent Secretary Aree Wongharaya told reporters the employees would come in Monday to pick up work for the week and return Friday with the completed assignments. He said a ministry committee which proposed the idea would study what kind of work officials could do at home and how many would take part, before giving final approval. The Interior Ministry employs the vast majority of Thailand's four million government employees. Mr. Aree said the majority of employees would still come to the ministry to work if the plan were adopted. Traffic congestion in Bangkok has reached near gridlock during rush hours. About 2.5 million cars and motorcycles use Bangkok roads and up to 400-500 new cars are registered daily, according to police figures. In an effort to ease the problem the Education Ministry last month ordered that school classes begin half an hour earlier, but switched back when there was no noticeable effect.

Brazil robbars get \$1.3 m from security firm

BRASILIA, Brazil (R) — Gunmen robbed a Brazilian security agency of \$1.3 million and an employee was suspected of involvement in the heist, a news agency reported Sunday. Agencia Estado said the Protege Agency branch in Santo Andre, an industrial suburb of Sao Paulo, was robbed early Saturday by 12 men carrying automatic weapons. The gunmen held two employees hostage and stole \$1.3 million in cash and checks as well as 45 38-calibre revolvers, ammunition and bulletproof vests. Police said a Protege guard opened the main door for the gunmen, led them to the money and fled with them. Protege is a leading Brazilian security and armoured car agency. Police have no leads, Agencia Estado said. Authorities could not be reached for comment.

Survey launched on women in politics

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan Monday launched a national survey on Jordanian women in politics with a view to measuring their political awareness and perspectives of their role in decision-making, official sources said.

"The poll aims to assess how Jordanian women see themselves as voters as well as candidates in general elections," said a source closely involved in the survey, conducted by University of Jordan students and few researchers seconded from the Department of Statistics.

The field study, which began Monday and is expected to end in two weeks, will also seek to reach "indicative conclusions" about how Jordanian men viewed their women participating in elections and in decision-making, the source told the Jordan Times.

The target audience of 2,000 is equally split between women and men randomly selected from the eight governorates of Jordan in proportion to their respective strength in the national population.

The survey is part of a larger "project democracy," which included an early 1993 survey on Jordanians' evaluation parliamentary life following the 1989 general elections and will consist of another field study on voting patterns in the 1989 polls and the elections scheduled for later this year.

Field teams will administer a 13-page questionnaire to the target audience during the survey on women. No details were available on specifics of the questions being asked, but the sources said the questionnaire was designed by Dr. Amal Dagestani and Dr. Musa Ishtawi of the faculty of the University of Jordan.

Although women represent

more than 50 per cent of Jordan's population, no woman has ever been elected to Parliament in the Kingdom. More than 10 were contestants in the 1989 elections.

At least three women have confirmed their intention to run in the next elections. Observers believe there would be at least 20 women candidates when the actual nominations begin.

"Jordanian women in politics" has been the theme for several seminars and workshops held in Jordan recently.

"It is expected that the new survey, in view of the large target audience and its national dimensions, will complement all existing studies and future deliberations on women's role in Jordan's politics," said a source from the research team. The centre's director, Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh, who is heading the project, declined comment.

Other sources said the result of the survey and an analysis of conclusions reached will be presented to a national conference on Jordanian women in politics to be held in Amman in September.

The Centre for Strategic Studies has developed what many analysts and diplomat see as a solid base for methodical, scientific studies of the Jordanian scene.

The results of the first study it conducted earlier this year were described by many as a reference document.

The study, however, also drew controversy from some quarters which asserted that it was not comprehensive.

The centre countered that the survey was not a comprehensive study on democracy but a "very focused survey which could offer us a glimpse of how Jordanians think and evaluate the process of liberalisation at this specific point in history."

Kuwait is preparing \$1b oil clean-up claim

GENEVA (R) — Kuwait is preparing a \$1 billion claim against Baghdad for cleaning up after the vast oil well fires that swept the country at the end of the 1991 Gulf war, a senior Kuwaiti official said Monday.

Abdul Rahman Al Houty, chairman of the Kuwait government body assessing damage caused by Iraq's seven-month occupation of the emirate, told Reuters the claim would be presented to a special United Nations body in the next few days.

"This will be the first of the big claims against Iraq. It has symbolic importance for us, and we believe it should be given priority attention," Mr. Houty added.

He was speaking in an interview before a three-day meeting of the governing council of the U.N. compensation commission set up after the war to coordinate the compilation of claims against Iraq and determine how they should be met.

So far, the commission has few funds for meeting claims or covering its own costs as Iraq has declined to make the \$1.6 billion oil sale authorised by the U.N. Security Council partly to compensate victims of its 1990 seizure of Kuwait.

In a speech to the council on Monday, Mr. Houty said ensuring Iraqi compliance with U.N. resolutions on the limited sale should be a top priority.

"We urge this body, as well as the Security Council whose membership it reflects, to continue to demand full compliance from the Iraqi regime," he said.

He also urged the council to encourage all countries holding Iraqi assets frozen after Baghdad's forces were driven out of Kuwait by a United States-led coalition to transfer them to the commission's compensation fund.

This was essential, he said according to a copy of his speech to the closed-door session made available to Reuters. "To begin building the funds needed to compensate Iraq's victims."

Talks between Baghdad and the U.N. on starting up the authorised oil sales — also intended to finance U.N. operations in Iraq and pay for food, medicine and other humanitarian imports — were held in New York earlier this month.

They were due to resume later this week, but diplomats in Baghdad said at the weekend Iraqi might now stall in hopes of getting lifted the trade embargo imposed by the Security Council until Iraq observes all U.N. resolutions.

The Geneva-based compensation commission has been meeting regularly since the summer of 1991 and officials say it has already received some 700,000 more in the pipeline from individuals, firms and states.

The total value of all claims is expected to be between \$100 and 200 billion, according to experts at the commission, which in April set up special panels to examine claims from individuals like foreign workers forced to flee Kuwait or Iraq.

Speaking to Reuters, Mr. Houty said the oil fire claim would cover the cost not only of the year-long battle to put out the fires — which Kuwait and the U.N. claim started by the retreating Iraqis — and the clean-up which was still under way.

It would also cover the costs of removing mines laid by Baghdad's forces in the area of the fires when some 700 wells were set ablaze, belching smoke that for days blotted out the sun.

Pakistani president rejects po" lay

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — Pakistan's acting president Monday ruled "the possibility of delaying" October elections, reiterating the interim government's resolve to establish credibility of the polls process.

"Elections will not be postponed on any demand or under any pretext," Wasim Sajjad, 52, said in his first nationwide broadcast since he assumed office after the July 18 shake-up in the country.

Mr. Sajjad, a jurist, was appointed interim president under an army-brokered settlement of the six-month-old bitter power tussle between President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, 78, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, 44, who both stepped down to pave the way for the mid-term elections.

The interim government has fixed Oct. 6 for the National Assembly election and Oct. 9 for the polls to elect the country's four provincial assemblies.

Several leaders have proposed changes in the electoral laws to ensure the fairness of polls while some have suggested that the polls be put off until early next year to make the process foolproof.

Elections held in 1990 were marred by charges of rigging levelled by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto who has been in the forefront of demands for fresh elections.

"The government is fully determined this time to make the election process so much transparent, fair and impartial that credibility of the process is established beyond any iota of doubt," Mr. Sajjad said.

The democratic system would be installed on sound foundations and the future government would be able to implement its programme for the stipulated period, he added.

He said the services of the armed forces would be fully utilised and law and order would be maintained before and during the elections.

The president earlier reconstituted the election commission, inducting two high court judges to finalise the election schedule and rules for the campaign.

Egyptian minister admits abuses, says they stopped

CAIRO (AP) — Egypt, facing widespread criticism, said Sunday it has stopped using human rights abuses as a tactic in its campaign against suspected Muslim terrorists.

At the same time, however, Interior Minister Hassan Al Ali admitted that hundreds of extremist suspects are detained without charge, awaiting prosecutors' decisions on whether they should be tried.

For years, the government has denied charges by Amnesty International and other human rights organisations of widespread violations as it countered violence by cadres of Muslim extremists.

Close to 200 people have died — 14 on the gallows on conviction

tion by military courts of "terrorism" — in more than a year of shootings and bombings and police reaction to them.

But General Ali admitted such previously denied practices as collective punishment, where villages had to pay for the actions of Muslim radicals who hailed from them, hostage-taking, where families of suspects were seized to force surrender, and torture in prisons.

"Collective punishment now is totally forbidden, and taking hostages is rejected," Gen. Ali told Egyptian journalists at the press syndicate.

As for torture, Gen. Ali said he respects the rule of law and vowed to investigate any "exces-

ses" that might have taken place. He refused to be more specific than that hundreds of extremist suspects are in prison.

"The prosecution is now investigating them, and as soon as this is over, they will be put on trial," Gen. Ali said. "It is not in the public interest to reveal the exact number of the detainees, (but) there are no baphazard arrests, and all detentions take place on the basis of definite information."

Gen. Ali, 57, was appointed last April after policies of his predecessor, Gen. Abdul Halim Musa, failed to stanch anti-government violence and raised accusations of rights abuses.

Gen. Ali's appointment was

welcomed by varying political groups in Egypt, including the radical Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah (the Islamic Group), whom the government holds responsible for the religious violence.

Muslim radicals hoped that the new minister's appointment would open the door for dialogue, which prominent Islamic scholars suggested early this year. But the new minister continued his predecessor's campaign, albeit with fewer victims.

The minister declared proudly in his meeting with journalists that many suspects were arrested recently "without a single shot, which denies earlier allegations that the police aim at liquidating all terrorists."